

THE TIMES

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(25p)

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King hits back after go-ahead for B-Cal deal

British Airways want route licences revoked

By Colin Narbrough and Robin Oakley

The Civil Aviation Authority yesterday gave SAS the go-ahead to acquire a substantial stake in British Caledonian, provided no changes are made to its partial bid.

Shortly after the CAA clearance was announced, British Airways, which on Thursday raised its rival bid for BCal, said it planned to seek public hearings to have BCal's route licences revoked.

The tentative green light for the Scandinavians came despite political pressure for a rejection of the SAS approach, mainly on the ground that it would mean foreign control of a British scheduled carrier, putting BCal's route licences at risk.

The news that the CAA will not stand in the way of the SAS bid came as an unwelcome blow for the Government, putting ministers on the spot.

They have contented themselves with the formula that it is for the CAA to determine whether or not BCal in any particular set of circumstances is no longer under effective UK control.

But they have done so up until now in the clear expectation that the CAA would advise Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, that the airline was no longer sufficiently under British control to count as a national airline, in which case he would have to consider whether to revoke the airline's licences for particular routes.

The CAA announcement, contained in a letter to Sir Adam Thomson, the BCal chairman, said the authority's view must necessarily be tentative as it appeared from the documents and price offered by SAS that its object was to acquire control of the company, as soon as it was permissible.

However, on the basis of the information before it, the CAA said it could not, under the terms of the Civil Aviation Act 1982, refuse the bid to the Secretary of State for Transport on the grounds that ownership would fall initially into foreign hands.

Last night, in Copenhagen, Mr Troels Rasmussen, an SAS spokesman, said his airline was "very pleased" with the CAA stance. It was what SAS had hoped for, he said, since its offer had provided the necessary guarantees to BCal shareholders.

The SAS offer, made on Wednesday, foresees payment of £130 million for an initial 23.5 per cent voting stake in BCal and the injection of £50 million of new capital. The revised offer by British Airways added £81 million to its previous bid, giving it a cash value of £200 million.

In a statement, British Airways welcomed the CAA decision as the first official acknowledgement that SAS's objective was control of BCal. As this was against the public interest, BA would demand full hearings of the merger before the CAA and would apply to have all BCal's licences revoked, it said.

The CAA emphasized that it could arrive at a different view of the merger, in the light of further argument, should the matter be brought before a public hearing.

A formal application to have BCal's licences withdrawn will have to go before Mr Channon putting the problem back in the political court.

Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive of BA, said: "If SAS were to acquire a substantial shareholding in B-Cal with potential control, valuable aviation concessions may have to be given to a foreign government to permit BCal's services to continue. Any such concessions would not be in the UK's public interest."

Sir Adam sent out a letter to BCal shareholders last night, telling them of the new BA bid and the CAA approval, but giving no verdict on the rival offers.

In the absence of further delays, the BCal board will need to give shareholders its recommendation in time for the January 5 deadline for BA's offer.

In practice, much of this time will be devoted to lobbying by SAS and British Airways of one shareholder. Investors in industry, and Mr Lawrence Tindale, its deputy chairman, who also sits on the BCal board, As it owns 41 per cent of BCal's shares, investors in industry's verdict is likely to be decisive.

It has been no secret at Westminster that Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr Channon do not want to see the SAS bid for a stake in BCal succeed.

They are suspicious of the Scandinavians' attitude on competition policy in Europe and fearful of the consequences in the Conservative Party after past controversies over Westland and Land Rover.

Mr Channon has said that in a heavy hint that if BCal merged and it was deemed that effective control had passed out of British hands, it could well be to the detriment of British civil aviation interests. Air service agreements would be put at risk.

But while ministers have made it clear, at least to the satisfaction of Mr Norman Tebbit, former party chairman, that they would not allow BCal to pass into the ownership of a foreign airline, the question of a minority stake is far more complicated, especially now that the CAA has cleared the SAS bid.

British Airways, as the rival bidder, has a formidable lobbying machine at Westminster and Labour has been urging that it would be "cronyism" if the Government accedes to the wishes of Lord King of Warranby, the British Airways chairman, and an outside bet not long ago for the position of successor to Mr Tebbit as party chairman.

Eastern bloc leaders toast summit's success



All smiles as Mr Gorbachev shares a toast with Mr Todor Zhivkov, the Bulgarian head of state, right, Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, second right, and an unidentified interpreter after telling them the summit details at a meeting of Warsaw Pact leaders in East Berlin yesterday.

Hype fails to sell packaged Gorbachov

From Frank Johnson Washington

To be an American is to be constantly accused by the rest of the world of being persuaded by "hype". Americans are depicted as a people easily impressed by the newest, best-advertised film, car, chocolate chip cookie or General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. According to this theory, they have "bought" Mr Gorbachov.

But hype is an American term, intended to be pejorative — describing publicity which is excessive and undeserved. Hyped products often fail. What was, until then, one of the expensively advertised products in American history — Ford's Edsel car 25 years ago — was a failure.

There have been failed films and, probably, failed cookies. To outside observers who look closely enough, this is not a country which will buy anything.

Americans have not bought Mr Gorbachov. They have bought only those bits of him which most resemble themselves. Those bits are not many. Mr Jim Wright, the Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives, said yesterday: "Mr Gorbachov would be a formidable candidate if he ran for office in the United States. If he were an American, he'd be more American than apple pie."

But Mr Wright is either one of the hypes, or a rare case of an American on whom the hype has been completely successful.

Arriving for his press conference, televised live on his last night here, Mr Gorbachov put on his reading glasses and staring at his own questions — not those of the press. After a solid hour of this, the television coverage broke off. "Er, the General Secretary's idea of a press conference seems to be rather different from America's," the anchorman observed. "We'll be back later, when the questioning starts." Wisely, on that channel, they never did go back.

To any foreign observer, the evidence suggested that Americans liked having the Gorbachovs with them for a few days — but would not like it all the time. This was as true

Continued on page 20, col 3

Reagan warned to hold back on final INF cuts

From Michael Binyon and Christopher Thomas, Washington

Senator Sam Nunn, the influential chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said yesterday that the United States should reserve the right to halt the destruction of the last batch of medium-range missiles in Europe unless there is real progress in reducing conventional forces.

While supporting the new treaty as psychologically important, the Georgia Democrat, who will play a key role in the ratification of the accord, said that America should use a six-month escape clause in the document to notify Moscow that Washington would terminate its responsibilities under the treaty if the conventional balance in Europe had not improved in two years.

The treaty is of unlimited duration, but the escape clause he referred to allows either side to withdraw after notice if it thinks its "supreme interests" are jeopardized.

Senator Nunn was one of the congressmen who discussed the results of the summit with President Reagan yesterday. Mr Reagan later emphasized that he and Mr Gorbachov had reached an understanding that testing of the US Strategic Defence Initiative would not block

progress on talks to cut strategic arms.

But the senator played the key role in forcing the President to compromise with Congress two weeks ago in sticking for a year to the narrow interpretation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which effectively prohibits widespread testing in space of the Star Wars technology. His influence on arms control matters has been vital in shaping US policy.

Meanwhile, congressional leaders of both parties have congratulated the President on

Europe's warning.....5
East bloc backing.....5
Superpower balance.....5
Reagan's gamble.....8
Leading article.....9

the outcome of the summit. But there were warnings yesterday of future confrontations when the INF Treaty is studied by the Senate.

Mr Jim Wright, the Democratic speaker of the House of Representatives, proclaimed a "new spirit of co-operation" between the White House and Congress. But Republicans were less enthusiastic. Senator Robert Dole, the Republican leader in the Senate, said bluntly that he did not trust Mr Gorbachov, a remark

clearly intended to satisfy conservatives.

Senator Nunn told European journalists yesterday that the present conventional advantage of the Soviet Union was extremely dangerous, and had to be rectified with asymmetrical reduction. He denounced the tortuous Vienna negotiations on mutual and balanced reductions in Central Europe as sterile, and said the West should concentrate instead on getting real conventional arms control.

He said: "I think conventional arms control is going to be the most difficult arms control negotiations we've ever had. I believe it should start with high-level military-to-military visits — I include in that the civilian side, the Secretary of Defence and his counterpart."

Senator Nunn did not see the INF Treaty as the start of the "slippery slope" in NATO. If he did, he would probably vote against it. "I think the slippery slope that bothers so many people in NATO starts with the conventional imbalance. Part of that is NATO's fault, part of it (that of) the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact, who have far more forces in Europe than they can conceivably need."

Continued on page 20, col 3

Sotheby's postpones stock flotation

By Sarah Jane Checkland Art Market Correspondent

Sotheby's Holdings, the art auctioneering company, announced the postponement of its much-anticipated stock flotation yesterday because of "recent volatile trading on the American and British stock markets."

Sotheby's has operated as a private company since it was bought for £87.2 million in November 1983 by Mr Alfred Taubman, the American developer and fast-food magnate.

According to the prospectus released on October 5 when the flotation was announced, the company is valued at between £350 million and £400 million.

Mr Michael Ainslie, president and chief executive officer of Sotheby's, said yesterday the postponement had been recommended, "given the continued unsettled conditions in the stock market and the resulting lack of receptivity to public offerings."

The company said it would still register employee stock options with the Securities and Exchange Commission as part of an incentive scheme for senior staff.

Salerom, page 3

Kimberley experts censured

By Jill Sherman and David Cross

Four Greenpeace social and health workers must share the blame for the death of Kimberley Carlie, aged four, who was tortured and murdered by her step-father, the official commission of inquiry report said yesterday.

The commission, chaired by Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, said that her death in 1986 on a run-down council estate in Greenwich, south-east London, could have been avoided if the welfare services had intervened at the right time.

The 292-page report calls for stronger and clearer powers for social workers investigating child abuse cases. It calls for a radical review of the way these cases are handled, and an end to the "fudge" of divided responsibilities.

It also calls for a Child Assessment Order, enabling social workers to force the medical examination of children.

Continued on page 20, col 8

Sears bid

Sears, the retailing group which includes Selfridges and the British Shoe Corporation, launched a £430.1 million cash bid for Freemans, the mail order company. Page 21

Credit time

Banks, card companies and stores are competing to advance credit for Christmas spending, but which one is best for you? Family Money, pages 26-31

New look

FIFA have said that stadiums must be modernized before England can stage the 1998 World Cup finals. Page 37

Portfolio

● The £4,000 prize in The Times Portfolio Gold competition was won yesterday by a reader from Gloucestershire. Details, page 3.
● Portfolio list, page 25; weekly check, page 30.

INDEX

Summit	5
Home News	2-4
Overseas	4-7
Business	21-25
Sport	34-38
Arts	16
Births, marriages, deaths	33
Bridge	17
Chess	2-17
Christmas gift guide	14
Court	10
Crosswords	17-20
Entertainments	32-33
Law Report	32-33
Leading articles	9
Letters	9
Obituary	10
Parliament	2
Religion	10
Salerom	3
Services	12
Travel	12
TV & Radio	19
Weather	20

£100m pensions error

The Government is to make special payments totalling £100 million to 94 million pensioners, as a result of mistakes discovered in the calculation of the retail price index (David Smith writes).

Single pensioners will receive an *ex gratia* payment of about £7.80, on a date to be announced by the Department of Health and Social Security.

For married couples, the payment will be about £12.10, and some severely disabled war and industrial injury pensioners could receive up to £30 as a one-off payment. The payments will be tax-free.

Under-payment of pensions and other benefits, normally raised in line with inflation, will amount to £35 million this year and £70 million next year. The special payments will be met from the Treasury's reserve.

The mistakes in the calculation of the retail price index came with the switch to a full-computerized method in February 1986. The figures have understated inflation rates by about 0.1 per cent.

● The dollar fell to record lows against the mark and yen yesterday, but shares recovered. The FT-SE 100 index rose by 32 points to 1,651.6.

Continued on page 20, col 3

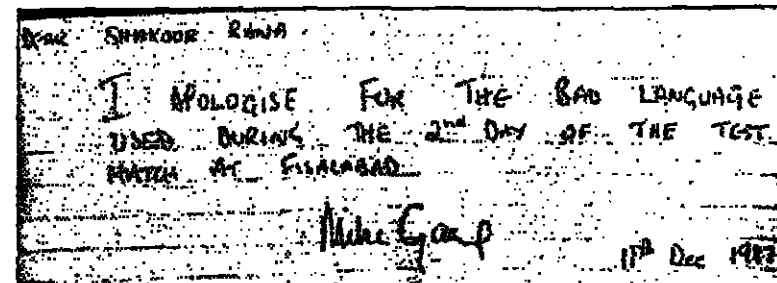
England team protest after Gattings's apology

By our Sports Staff

Mike Gattings is considering his position as England's cricket captain after complying with an order from Lord's to make a written apology to the Pakistan umpire, Mr Shakoor Rana, so that play could resume yesterday in the Faisalabad Test match.

Gattings, who feels his integrity has been sacrificed by the Test and County Cricket Board to save what remains of the tour of Pakistan, said: "I was certainly wrong by having words with the umpire but he was also wrong by using bad language and interfering with play unnecessarily."

"But again we have had to back down because the board exerted pressure on us when we were in the right. Our self-respect has been taken away again by our own board... And the only reason the players took the field today was for cricket and for



The apology from Gattings to Shakoor Rana, umpire of the second Test.

youngsters who are just starting to play the game."

The 15 members of the England tour party issued a statement "deploring the fact that it was not possible to effect a compromise solution."

It added: "We also wish to register a unanimous protest that the TCCB should consider it necessary to issue instructions through our manager, Peter Lush, to order the captain to

make an unconditional apology to the umpire."

Mr Raman Subba Row, the chairman of the TCCB, and Mr Alan Smith, the chief executive, are flying to Karachi in time for next week's third Test in the hope that they can calm the players and defuse the dispute.

Mr Smith yesterday refused to comment on the statement by the

England players. "We will be having a little de-briefing after people have calmed down," he said. "I think we have had enough statements already."

"I believe Gattings will reflect that he has behaved as a big man here."

Mr Shakoor Rana, the umpire, said he was satisfied with the apology, while the Pakistan team manager, Mr Hassae Ahsan, commented that the affair had been "a storm in a tea cup."

Yesterday's play, interrupted by bad light, ended with Pakistan all out for 191, giving England a first innings lead of 101. Today is the last day.

● Despite the allegations circulating in Pakistan of political pressure on the cricket authorities to force Mike Gattings into his apology to the Pakistani umpire, Whitehall sources were adamant last night that there had been none (Robin Oakley writes).

Bitter England, page 38

The King Size from Dunhill



The fine lettering confirms the fact. London, Paris. New York — or indeed anywhere you travel. Dunhill King Size is renowned for its distinctive quality. Created by master blenders, employing care, patience and infinite skill: Dunhill King Size offers exceptional smoothness.

Blended to your taste

LOW TO MIDDLE TAR
Warning: MORE THAN 30,000 PEOPLE DIE EACH YEAR IN THE UK FROM LUNG CANCER
Health Departments' Chief Medical Officers

NEWS ROUNDUP

4,000 jobs go in city's cash crisis

The ratecapped Manchester City Council is to shed almost 4,000 jobs to meet its spending targets next year, although there will be no compulsory redundancies.

The Labour-run council is proposing to save £39 million with a package of measures approved yesterday by a special committee.

Education will be worst affected, with the equivalent of 541 teaching and lecturing jobs lost. The education budget faces cuts of nearly £20 million. Another £6.5 million will be trimmed from social services.

The Labour leadership said jobs will be cut through early retirement, voluntary redundancy and redeployment.

Mr Graham Stringer, the council leader, blamed the crisis on cuts in Government grants totalling £600 million over the past eight years.

Mr John Kershaw, the council's Conservative financial spokesman, said: "What happened today was brought about by the financial mismanagement of the left wing administration".

Moderate Banking setback

South Wales miners' leaders yesterday delivered a setback to the hopes of Mr John Walsh, the moderate candidate in the election for the presidency of the National Union of Mineworkers.

Delegates to an area conference at Pontypridd decided not to recommend a candidate for the election caused by Mr Arthur Scargill's decision to resign and seek re-election.

Efforts by the area leadership to have the ballot declared unconstitutional were defeated at Thursday's meeting of the national executive.

Irish ferry link ends

The passenger ferry service between Liverpool and Dublin is to be terminated, the Irish government confirmed yesterday. But the state-run B-I shipping service may continue to operate freight services on the route.

The Dublin government authorized the go-ahead of a survival plan for the loss-making shipping company after months of talks with the unions representing the staff. The company will transfer its ferry services from Liverpool to Holyhead. In the next five years the government will subsidize the company by £27 million. In return, staff will accept 560 job losses. The remaining 900 workers will undertake not to strike for three years and to accept a three-year pay freeze and a temporary wage cut of 5 per cent.

Airline closes

Highland Express, Scotland's transatlantic airline, went into liquidation yesterday, less than six months after flights began.

The company operated low-cost flights between Prestwick and Newark, New Jersey, using a single Boeing 747. Earlier this month, Sir Ian MacGregor, former chairman of British Coal and British Steel, took over as executive chairman and chief executive of the airline.

Last night Sir Ian was due to fly to Prestwick to address the company's 200 staff. Airline officials were not available for comment.

Sandelson's venture

Mr Neville Sandelson, the former Labour and SDP MP who urged Social Democrats to vote Conservative at the general election, is to set up with Dr Stephen Haseler, another SDP founder, a new Radical Society. It is designed to provide a "think tank" on the model of the Fabian Society but embracing both Social Democrats and Conservatives.

Mr Sandelson, who has been expelled from the SDP, said in a speech in Winchester last night that the new radicalism engineered by Mrs Margaret Thatcher needed to be refined and developed. His society would be free from party constraints to experiment with ideas.

Union leaders move to curb London's hard left

By Roland Ridd and Tim Jones

Leading trade unionists are planning to wrest control of the London Labour Party from the hard left.

A wide spectrum of influential trade unionists, belonging to a new national organization called Labour First, will meet today to work out their strategy to reduce the power of the hard left in London and in Britain's other large cities.

Their immediate aim is to push through far-reaching constitutional changes at a

special conference of the London Labour Party tomorrow. They believe they could break the power of the hard left if the executive were smaller and they propose to reduce the 55 places to 39.

The unions believe that only they can restore sanity to "the barren wasteland of the London Labour Party".

The aim of Labour First is to assemble a broad coalition of trade unions as a bulwark against the hard left. The members will argue that in the 1940s and 1950s the trade unions provided a solid

foundation for Labour's popular appeal. They aim to repeat that formula.

The new group believes firmly that by paying too much attention to dogma and minority issues, the present party machine in the capital has frightened away thousands of potential and "natural" Labour voters.

Mr John Mann, education officer of the Amalgamated Engineering Union (AEU) and a councillor in the London borough of Lambeth, said it was time the London Labour

Party "realizes that its antics have created a problem for the party throughout the country. The trade unions are fed up with the unrepresentative group in London speaking for the whole party."

The London Labour Party has been a constant source of embarrassment to the party leadership. Miss Patricia Hewitt, press secretary to Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, told Mr Frank Dobson, MP, earlier this year that the "loony Labour left" were damaging the party's electoral chances.

In a letter to Mr Dobson, leader of the London Group of Labour MPs, she said that issues such as gays and lesbians, the fear of extremism and higher taxes were harming the party.

Mr Dobson said he will be attending tomorrow's conference.

The union leaders meeting today believe their task has become even more vital after the remarks of Mr Ken Livingstone in support of Sinn Féin. His comments, so soon after the bombing at Enniskillen, infuriated Mr Kinnock.

Mr Bill Jordan, president of the AEU, said: "This is the fight-back in the capital and about time too. The loony left has been disastrous for the Labour Party, particularly in London where because of them the party failed to make any headway."

He hoped Labour First would help Mr Kinnock to deal with Mr Livingstone — "the man who has been the architect of crazy policies which have lost the party so many votes".

Parents told by Baker not to 'shuffle off' children

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

Parents should face up to their responsibilities and stop shuffling them on to teachers and schools, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said last night.

In a sharply-worded speech to a Conservative Party meeting in Crawley, West Sussex, he said the reforms he was bringing to the education system would not produce better results unless children were able to benefit from their schooling.

"Whether they are able to benefit is something determined more by the attitudes of the home than by the attitudes of the school. We frequently ask: 'Are our children being taught properly?' Shouldn't we also ask: 'Are our children being parented properly?'"

Mr Baker said teachers should not be expected to be surrogate parents. "Why should dedicated teachers have their energies drained by having to cope with children who bring into the classroom attitudes which are antithetical to the learning process?"

"Why should teachers have to overcome disruption, rudeness, and in some cases physical violence and assault?"

A survey by the Professional Association of Teachers had revealed a totally unacceptable level of pupil indiscipline, Mr Baker said. Teachers were convinced that the disruption was related to what happened at home.

"What sort of moral values are children being taught at home? What sort of lifestyle are parents passing on to their children? Do they take time to

communicate, to help their children to read, to develop personal skills? Do parents teach children respect for the property of others and for communal property?"

Mr Baker said one third of all recorded crime was committed by people aged 16 or under and that the peak year for offending was 15. These are ages when children will still be living at home and when parents should still be exercising control over them.

He emphasized that he was not asking for a middle-class notion of parenthood. "The fact is that good or poor family relationships, domestic stability or instability, and positive or negative attitudes towards education all cross class and economic boundaries."

Mr Baker said parents must accept that they are the first educators. "Our new education reforms will give parents greater power. The other half of that equation must be that parents assume greater responsibility."

Too many of Britain's best engineering brains are being lured into the City by the money and glamour of "yuppies" high life, Dr John Warlock, vice-chancellor of the Open University said yesterday.

Action was needed to ensure that engineering graduates went into the industry where their skills were vital for Britain's economic future.

Britain was producing far fewer graduate engineers than its competitors. The number must be doubled "to prevent industry being bled white". Only 4,000 of Britain's annual graduate engineering output went into engineering.

Lawson criticizes reporting on wife

By Robin Young

Mr Nigel Lawson yesterday criticized press reporting of his wife's disqualification for drunk driving as "a disgrace" and described her conviction as "bad luck".

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that his wife, Theresa, had committed "a minor offence" when she was found to be over the drink-drive limit after an accident in London last month.

Mr Lawson said in Cardiff: "Her car was stationary at the time, and the bus ran into her. She was found to have just two millilitres above the permitted level."

The Chancellor said that much of the publicity had been inaccurate. "I have been

appalled by the press treatment my wife has suffered", he said. "She is a private citizen."

Mr Lawson refused to comment on the handling of his wife's case before Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court this week, which was heard at exceptionally short notice and without her name appearing on the court list.

Mr John Knight, of the Campaign Against Drunk Driving, said: "It is not a minor offence. It is a crime."

It was deplorable that Mr Lawson should talk like that "when the message coming from the Government is that if you are driving you do not drink at all".

Cutting edge of fashion



Mrs Margaret Thatcher meets Michelle Warwick, aged 18, a machinist at the Aquascutum factory in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, yesterday. Mrs Thatcher, a customer of the firm, saw computers used in conjunction with traditional skills (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

Civil Servants welcome deal

By Roland Ridd

The Civil Service Union was offered a two-year pay deal worth up to 15 per cent yesterday, which will streamline different union grades.

The union, which represents 31,000 Civil Servants working in low-paid grades, said it was delighted with the offer. It would consult its members about the package and would recommend acceptance in a ballot to be held early next year.

Twenty-six grades, such as messengers, security officers, car drivers and telephonists, will be merged into five support grades. The rise will be introduced in three or four stages depending on the position of the staff concerned.

A rise of 3 per cent will be

effective from January 1, 6.5 per cent from April 1 and 2 per cent from January 1, 1989, to be followed by a negotiated pay settlement in April 1990.

Mr John Sheldon, the union's general secretary, said yesterday: "The increased efficiency and effectiveness of the members will make it even more difficult for management and the Government to argue that Civil Servants do not provide a service that compares with that of the private sector."

The Treasury said the unified structure would eliminate demarcation barriers and inflexibility. Savings would be

made by the abolition of a complex system of skills and responsibility allowances. In return, there would be better pay for increased flexibility.

The union has agreed to discuss a more structured system for long-term pay determination, which the Treasury has agreed with the Institution of Professional Civil Servants.

The Inland Revenue Staff Federation was recently offered a £30 deal which would raise maximum pay levels by as much as 19 per cent by April 1989. The Militant-led Civil and Public Services Association is the only Civil Service union which has not negotiated a pay deal.

Concern at Lords rule on press

Britain is sinking into the league of nations where press freedom is barely understood, let alone protected, the Press Council said yesterday.

It expressed serious concern over a Law Lords decision that a journalist must disclose his confidential sources.

In the first case of its kind, the Lords ruled Jeremy Warner, business correspondent of *The Independent*, must do so to help to combat the "whole disorienting web" of suspected insider dealing.

Mr Kenneth Morgan, the council's director, said: "The decision that a journalist must do this is a severe blow at serious investigative journalism in the public interest."

Kasparov chooses to play for draw

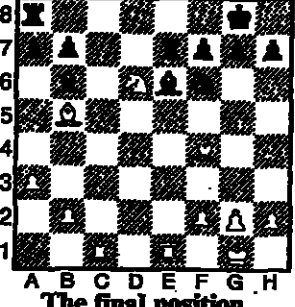
By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent, Seville

The twenty-second game of the world chess championship ended in a speedy draw last night after 19 moves.

The half-point gained by Gary Kasparov brought him to within one point of retaining the title, with two games to play in Seville.

Kasparov, playing white, made no attempt to win. He chose an unusual though essentially tame variation which caused Anatoly Karpov, the challenger, to consider his eighth move for 36 minutes.

He needs at least a win and a draw next week to take the title and expose Kasparov's safety-first strategy as a colossal gamble.



The final position.

Price of stamp is frozen for now

By John Spicer

The price of first and second class postage stamps is to be frozen at least until Easter.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, Post Office chairman, made the announcement yesterday a week after his agreement with postal workers for a 90-minute cut in their working week.

The deal, which will cost about £75 million to implement, is to be financed out of new productivity agreements, so Sir Bryan has been quick to assure postal users that there will be no increases.

Sir Bryan said that by April the cost of first class stamps will have remained at 18p for 17 months. Second class stamps will be the same as they were since the last price increase in September 1984.

The cost of the first class stamp last went up in October 1986 after a two-year freeze.

Sir Bryan made his announcement while touring the giant mechanized sorting office at Nine Elms, south-east London, where he had gone to see sorters and postmen handling the Christmas rush. The Post Office says it is handling between 80 million and 90 million items a day.

Sir Bryan predicted the total for the period between December 1 and Christmas Eve would be a record 1,800 million items, 100 million more than last year's record figure over the same period.

Recommended last posting dates are December 17 for parcels and second class mail and December 19 for first class mail.

To handle the avalanche of mail, which reaches a peak of 140 million items a day in the run-up to Christmas, the Post Office has hired lorries and vans to augment its fleet of 28,000 vehicles.

The Post Office is urging children who want to write to Father Christmas to get their letters off as soon as possible. Last year about 250,000 children wrote via the Post Office.

His address is: Father Christmas, Reindeerland, c/o The Royal Mail. Children giving their address get a reply.

Protest fine

Ellen Hosvong, aged 21, and Ida Holthe, aged 20, Norwegian students who handcuffed themselves to the Trafalgar Square Christmas tree and unfurled a "stop acid rain" banner, were fined £150 each by Bow Street magistrates yesterday and bound over to keep the peace.

Before The Times reported the fine, the girls had been released from custody. The girls' parents, who live in Norway, are paying the fine. The girls' parents, who live in Norway, are paying the fine.

Through thick and thin.

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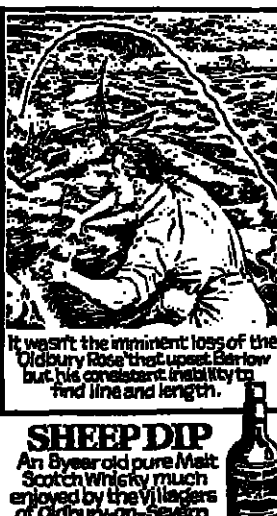
The outlook for investors at this point is far from clear. The answer may be to send for further details about us. There is no obligation on your part.

Philip Stevens, Lazard Investors, 21 Moorfields, London EC2P 2HT. Telephone: 01-588 2721.

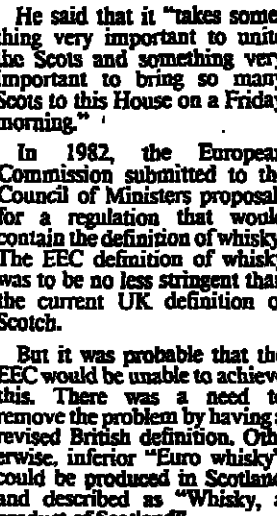
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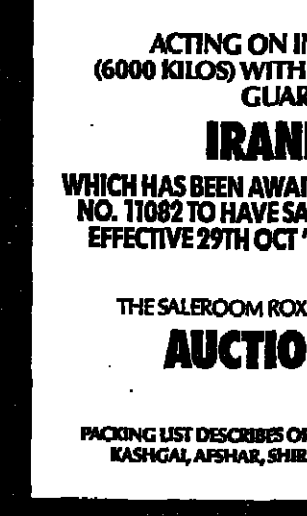
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It wasn't the imminent loss of the Oldbury A nuclear power station that led to the sheep being moved to this location.



But it was probable that the EEC would be unable to achieve this. There was a need to remove the problem by having a revised British definition. Otherwise, inferior 'Euro whisky' could be produced in Scotland and described as 'Whisky, a product of Scotland'.



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PARLIAMENT

December 11 1987

MPs rally to the defence of Scotch whisky

There was support from the Government and from all sides of the House for a private member's Bill to protect Scotch whisky from inferior imitations.

The Scotch Whisky Bill, which lays down a stringent definition of the liquor and would prevent inferior products being produced or matured in Scotland, was read a second time without a division. The Bill allows for possible seizure of inferior brands.

Mr William Walker (Tayside North, C), moving the second

reading, declared himself to be a non-drinking Scot. He said that his Bill was supported by the Scotch Whisky Association, trade unions, management and workers.

"The pure highland water and barley of Scotland and the skills and experience of the workforce are as Scottish as Burns, as Hogmanay, as the bagpipes and the kilt", he said amid laughter and cheers.

Yet there had to be protection. Scotch was more than a whisky: it was part of Scotland's heritage and folklore.

He said that it "takes something very important to unite the Scots and something very important to bring so many Scots to this House on a Friday morning."

In 1982, the European Commission submitted to the Council of Ministers proposals for a regulation that would contain the definition of whisky. The EEC definition of whisky was to be no less stringent than the current UK definition of Scotch.

But it was probable that the EEC would be unable to achieve this. There was a need to remove the problem by having a revised British definition. Otherwise, inferior 'Euro whisky' could be produced in Scotland and described as 'Whisky, a product of Scotland'.

This could at best confuse and at worst damage the sales prospects of Scotch world-wide. Throughout the world, "Scotch whisky" was taken to mean whisky from Scotland.

Scotch had exports of over £1,000 million a year and provided work for 16,000 people directly and many more indirectly. It contributed £1,000 million in taxes and revenues to the Exchequer and should be

given the protection that a quality product merited.

Mr Martin O'Neill (Clackmannan, Lab) welcomed the Bill and spoke of the problem of adulterated whisky.

In French supermarkets, bottles could be found containing what purported to be whisky as low as 28 per cent proof. It was frustrating for organizations involved in the expense of promotion to find that they were being

undercut by "hooch".

Forty per cent proof should be the established figure. That was the base line.

Sir Hector Moore (Dumfries, C) said that it was important to have a minimum standard of strength.

Mr Donald Thompson, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said that the Government supported the Bill, which it viewed

as a practical measure that should help to ensure the prosperity of the industry.

The Slaughter of Deer Bill, which aimed to apply statutory welfare controls to the slaughter of deer in abattoirs, was talked out in the Commons. The Protection of Animals (Amendment) Bill and the Licensing (Retail Sales) Bill were read a second time. All are private member's Bills.

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TERMS OF PAYMENT: CASH AND ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS

هنا امان الرحمن

Gartree air snatch

Jail break inquiry will study defences against helicopters

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The inquiry into the Gartree prison escape must look at ways of providing a defence against helicopters, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Hurd disclosed that the Government had been studying ways of preventing helicopter escapes after a breakout from a Paris jail last year.

He said the Gartree inquiry, to be led by Mr Gordon Laker, deputy director general of the Prison Service, would have to look at the possibility of extending physical barriers, as well as manning and escorts in circumstances such as those at the prison, and instructions given to prison officers.

Ways of coping with a helicopter in such circumstances would also have to be studied, Mr Hurd said. "These are three areas I'm clear that we shall have to think about seriously, in the light of what happened yesterday, which is very bad news."

He would not explain what he meant by "instructions to prison officers" and would not give details about what possible air defences could be used by prison officers against helicopters.

Mr Hurd said: "Some of the matters I mentioned didn't just spring into my head yesterday. They have been matters which have been considered, and in some prisons there are physical barriers of the kind that I have mentioned."

Prisons at Full Sutton, Yorkshire, Parkhurst, Isle of Wight, Brixton, South-west London, and Leicester have extensive areas covered with metal wire or mesh to prevent a helicopter snatch of high risk, category A prisoners,

whose escape would be considered highly dangerous to the public or the police or the security of the state.

Full Sutton and Parkhurst are dispersal prisons where top security prisoners are held among others regarded as less of a risk. Other dispersal prisons are Wormwood Scrubs, Wakefield, Frankland, Long Lartin, Albany and Gartree.

Leicester and Brixton have special units where prisoners on remand and given provisional category A status can be held if necessary. Gartree has no protection of the kind fitted at the four top security jails. Pressure is bound to increase to install helicopter barriers at all dispersal prisons.

The escape of the two prisoners, John Kendall, aged 36, and Sydney Draper, aged 39, have shown the need for much closer observation by prison officers at visits. All mail for category A prisoners is scrutinized and it is thought that plans for the escape are likely to have been passed by an approved visitor.

Gartree was built for category C inmates, who are not considered to be escape prone, not as a high-security prison. It was converted into a dispersal jail three years after its opening in 1966.

During disturbances in 1978, water hoses were played on buildings to prevent fires and because of fears that prisoners would break out through walls.

An inquiry by Lord Mountbatten of Burma into the escape of George Blake, the spy, from Wormwood Scrubs in October 1966 recom-

mended that category A prisoners should be concentrated in a maximum security prison planned for the Isle of Wight. Not more than 120 should be housed there. If necessary a second prison should be built later.

Lord Mountbatten said later that he had wanted a liberal regime within a secure perimeter. Instead, the Government opted for dispersal, with the result that all prisons housing category A prisoners have had to be brought up to the necessary high security standard. However, in the case of Gartree it clearly was not enough.

Some of the distinctions between category A prisoners and those who are not such a threat are not always easy to maintain within prisons. It is thought that that may result in some easing of the regime.

There are just under 400 category A prisoners, with a further 100 either on remand or in the early stages of their sentences. The most recent escapes of category A prisoners were in 1980 and 1986 while awaiting trial.

A prisoner made a short break for freedom from a hospital ward yesterday, two days after an appendix operation.

Gerard Sargent, aged 30, escaped from a television lounge on the ground floor of Broomfield Hospital, at Chelmsford, Essex, while his two prison guards were in another room. Mr Sargent, who is awaiting trial on charges of possessing an imitation firearm and robbery, was found two hours later in a water-filled ditch at Chigwell, a mile from the hospital.

Killer 'weak link' in escape

By Tony Dawe

Underworld associates of the two jailbreakers are convinced that friends of John Kendall, the armed robber from east London, arranged the escape.

They believe that he took with him Sydney Draper, who was midway through a 25-year sentence, because of a close friendship which had developed in Gartree maximum security prison, and because he might have needed an ally in the scramble to board the helicopter.

They would not be surprised if the two men split up. They say that Draper could be the weak link who might endanger both men's freedom.

One east London villain said yesterday: "This whole operation is down to the old pal's act. Kendall is well connected. He was hooked up with a little firm that got a lot of money from hitting security vans, and his friends were determined to get him out."

Kendall's contacts avoided using an outsider to run the operation because of the cost, at least £50,000, and the risk. An associate of Kendall said: "He has got plenty of nerve, he has been round the block (escaped) before. But Draper is less subtle."

A former convict who spent some months in the special wing at Leicester Prison with Draper soon after he began his life sentence

said: "He was neurotic, a bit of a brooder who will not take the pressure of being on the run too well."

"He was trigger-happy as a villain and tended to shoot people. I fear the only way that he will survive on the run will be with the help of a gun."

Mr John McVicar, who was once the most wanted man in Britain after escaping from Durham Prison while serving a sentence for armed robbery, said yesterday: "The two men will not find it easy. There is no 'escapes' benevolent society', just a few hand-outs from one or two friends and then you're on your own."

Mr McVicar, who now earns his living as a freelance journalist, said that the two men would have headed for a "safe house", probably provided by a friend of a relative, in a city.

He was caught after two years on the run in the 1960s. News of his whereabouts reached a professional informant who told the police. Kendall and Draper faced the same risk.

Mr McVicar said: "The people I feel sympathy for are the top security prisoners still in jail who are certain to face even tougher regimes after this escape."

Mistress shares in £400,000 home

The mistress of an Israeli millionaire was awarded a half share in her £400,000 Hampstead home by the High Court in London yesterday.

Miss Eleonora Juteit, aged 36, a West German, was also allowed to keep valuable gold and diamond jewellery, a mini car, and cash given to her by Dr Tzvi Livneh, aged 45, during their seven-year affair.

Mr Justice Knox rejected Dr Livneh's claims that the Hampstead house, bought for £206,620 in August 1983, was his alone, and that his wife

Miss Juteit should be returned.

Miss Juteit can also keep more than £3,000 in foreign currency, which Dr Livneh claimed she was looking after for him. The judge said the money was left over from "living expenses".

Mr Justice Knox described Dr Livneh as a "wealthy and successful Israeli businessman". He had a wife and three sons living in Israel, and met Miss Juteit in 1976, while she was working as an au pair in London.

They lived together "as man

and wife" for almost seven years. The relationship ended in 1984.

The Hampstead house was bought in their joint names in 1983. However, Dr Livneh told the court that she was only holding it in trust for him.

He also said the jewellery he lavished on her was only being held in trust. While part of the jewellery did form part of a trust deed, the judge said he believed Dr Livneh meant to make outright gifts of much of it while the couple were in love.

£418,000 for painting which cost £170 in June

The high Renaissance painting which Sotheby's sold for a song in Chester this summer achieved a record price for the artist Sebastiano del Piombo when it came under the hammer at Christie's yesterday.

However, the price was not as sky-high as some experts had predicted, due to the painting's evident fragility. The anonymous telephone buyer will discover the true quality of the work when it is cleaned.

Del Piombo's "Portrait of Pope Clement VII" appeared at Sotheby's, Chester, on June 11, described as "Italian School, nineteenth century, estimate £200 to £300". It sold for £170.

Competition for Charlie Chaplin's original hat, cane and shoes reached almost comic proportions yesterday when they sold for £121,000 at Christie's South Kensington yesterday.

They were the subject of a fierce bidding duel between a Swiss telephone bidder and Mr Jorgen Strecker, the owner of a "Danish entertainment" centre in Copenhagen.

Eventually, the telephone bidder, said to be a Swiss museum, secured the shoes for £38,500, and Mr Strecker bought the hat and cane for £82,500. Both had been estimated at £10,000 to £15,000.

SALEROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland Art Market Correspondent

The buyer took the painting for valuation to Christie's, London. It was billed as a highlight at Christie's Old Master sale yesterday, credited to the master painter, and sold for £418,000.

Sotheby's said yesterday that it had contacted the original vendor. "Now we know the result of the sale, we will be discussing with him appropriate compensation", a spokesman said.

This week Mr Michael Hirst, the Sebastiano expert who authenticated the painting, said: "These things happen, but I do think it is shocking luck for the original vendor."

Christie's achieved three more notable prices: "St Paul Preaching to the Aeneas" by Karel Dujardin left its estimate of £60,000 to £80,000 well behind at £341,000; Hendrick Maertensz. Sorgh's portrait of

a young woman playing the harpsichord sold for £418,000; and a still-life of grapes, nuts and berries by Osias Beert I fetched £209,000 — four times its lower estimate — but failed, possibly due to its poor condition, to top Sotheby's record for the artist established earlier this week.

Top price was £528,000 for a fine view of the Grand Canal, with the Rialto Bridge the focal point, by Canaletto. It was bought by the Walpole Gallery, just opened in Dover Street, which promises to be a new force on the market.

Bidding was often reluctant at the sale, stopping well below estimates, and 25 per

cent failed to sell. The sale totalled £4.6 million. Meanwhile, across the hall, the Christie's antiquities sale was dampened by the absence of the gold relief fragment claimed to be from the tomb of Tutankhamun, withdrawn from the auction for reasons not explained.

A bronze seated figure of Sekhmet, the lion-headed Egyptian goddess, fetched the top price at the sale, although its price of £41,800 was just above its lower estimate. The sale totalled £458,777, with 78 per cent sold.

At Sotheby's Continental furniture auction yesterday, two pairs of Florentine Pietra Dura panels, of about 1700, fetched the top two prices of £99,000 and £77,000. A nineteenth century Austro-Hungarian centre table, decorated with topographical views of country houses and a townscape, sold for £68,200 (estimate £15,000 to £20,000). The sale totalled £1.4 million.

In Glasgow, Christie's reported a successful sale of paintings by the Glasgow Boys, the group of colourists working in the late 1800s, although no record prices were achieved. Joint top lots were both by E.A. Hornel: a woodland scene and a river scene. Both sold for £20,900.

Slope arms in the Sandhurst sunshine



Sandhurst officer cadets at the slope arms position carried the new SA80 rifle yesterday for the first time in a Sovereign's Parade. For about 30 years those passing out into the British Army

have shouldered arms but their new weapon is shorter and easier to carry than the 7.62mm self-loading rifle it replaced. The 95th parade saw the introduction of a Sandhurst Blue uniform for the

cadets. The Queen's representative was General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, Commander in Chief Allied Forces Northern Europe. (Photograph: John Rogers)

Light cure offered for winter's depression

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

Women who are anxious, tired and less interested in sex may be suffering from the gloomy effects of winter, according to psychiatrists.

The syndrome, called seasonal affective disorder, is similar in some ways to hibernation, and makes sufferers want to eat more, and sleep longer.

They suffer regular bouts of depression during the winter months until their spirits are lifted by the onset of spring, researchers say in the *British Medical Journal* today.

Men are also prone to the disorder but it is eight or nine times more common in women. It makes them less sociable, causing problems in personal and working relationships.

Travelling south towards longer daylight can help, but bright lights are effective in keeping the miseries of long dark nights at bay, according to Dr Melanie Abas and Dr Declan Murphy at the Institute of Psychiatry in London.

Studies have shown that up to 85 per cent of sufferers exposed to between two and six hours a day of artificial light show an improvement in mood.

The treatment is offered to depressed patients at the Maudsley Hospital in south London and in a few other centres.

Dr Abas said: "The disorder is becoming more recognized in the medical profession but nobody knows how many people suffer from it."

"We also don't know why women are more vulnerable than men, but it is true that women have a higher incidence of depression generally than men."

Patients at the Maudsley are admitted for five days of light treatment and if they respond are allowed to continue the treatment at home.

The method by which the treatment works is unclear, but it is thought to be linked with levels of melatonin. This natural substance is produced by the brain during darkness, affects sleep rhythms and may cause changes of mood.

Hospitals get debt warning

By Jill Sherman and Sam Kiley

The Government is planning to crack down on health authorities that fail to pay debts to medical suppliers.

The debts have occurred because authorities have delayed payment to balance their books and avoid reductions in patient services.

The National Health Service management board, chaired by Mr Antony Newton, Minister for Health, is asking all authorities to ensure that they pay their bills on time and do not implement these short-term measures of saving money.

The board is also concerned that many authorities are implementing a spate of bed closures in emergency measures to keep within targets. Members of the board intend to monitor more closely how districts plan their services and to ensure that they are given adequate financial information.

Mr Mike Fairey, the planning director, will be calling in representatives from all regional health authorities to ask them to plan more effectively next year.

Mr Martin Thompson, commercial manager of Egerton Hospital Equipment, with a turnover of £2.8 million a year making specialist beds for hospitals, said last night that many hospitals delayed payment as much as possible.

"City and Hackney Health Authority is the slowest. We are taking legal action over a bill for £5,000 from April. Small companies like us will go out of business if cash-flow is interrupted in this way."

Yorkshire Regional Health Authority assessed its spending levels a month ago and found it was going to overspend by £9 million.

"We do not have a policy of delaying payments", its spokesman said. "Districts

have all introduced cost-saving measures except the Western District who have refused to cut 120 beds at the Leeds General Infirmary."

Oxford Regional Health Authority is considering a cut of 200 beds as a short-term cash-saving plan, in two authorities. "This is in addition to the several hundred that are empty at the moment because we cannot afford to keep them going."

Nurses have held secret ballots on industrial action, a union leader said yesterday. In north Manchester, there was 100 per cent support for action.

"We have received reports from all over the country of nurses seething with rage at the Government's cool tricks over their pay and poll tax", Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said.

Portfolio Gold—Win will pay for repairs

A £4,000 Portfolio Gold business has come at a good time for Mr Brian Toney, a business consultant, of Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

Mr Toney, who was the only winner of the Portfolio Gold prize yesterday, recently carried out extensive and expensive repairs on his house.

"The prize money will compensate for our glazing and roof repair costs", he said, adding that the win was especially welcome before Christmas.

Mr Toney and his wife Paulette have two adult children.

Portfolio Gold cards can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to: Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

Freedom plea

The High Court yesterday refused to issue a writ of *habeas corpus* freeing Jens Soering, aged 21, from custody. Mr Soering has been fighting possible extradition to the United States, where he is accused of murdering his girl friend's parents in 1983.

Paper closes

Peace News, the pacifist newspaper, published its final issue in Nottingham yesterday. Financial and staffing problems were blamed for the closure, but a relaunch is expected in nine months.

Aids segregation ruled out

By Our Science Correspondent

The segregation in maternity wards of pregnant women who are carrying the Aids virus has been dismissed as totally unrealistic in guidelines issued by medical experts yesterday.

But extra precautions, including changes in clinical routine, are necessary to reduce the risk of Aids, they said.

Women known to be infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) should have their babies delivered by staff wearing protective clothing.

They may be advised not to

breast-feed their babies, although there is no definite evidence that sucking infants can be infected.

The guidelines have been prepared by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the Royal College of Midwives and the British Paediatric Association.

Their joint report says that women with HIV should think seriously about becoming pregnant because of the risks involved.

Pregnancy might speed the clinical progress of Aids-related conditions. It was estimated that at least half of babies born to HIV-positive mothers would be infected and up to 50 per cent of them would go on to develop Aids. Thirteen such babies were known to have contracted the disease in Britain and six have died.

Blood testing for traces of the virus should be given to all women who believed themselves to have been at risk of infection, and who sought the test, but universal testing was not recommended, the report says.

Ramblers win test case on footpath maps

The Ramblers' Association yesterday won a High Court test case confirming that maps drawn in the 1950s under the Countryside Act are definitive.

A judge ruled that other evidence on footpaths, dating from before the definitive maps, could not be used to justify deletion of rights of way. The case concerned a path in Lincolnshire.

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Kimberley inquiry condemns social worker who went 'round and round the mulberry bush'

Extra legal powers needed to investigate suspected child abuse

The report calls for social workers to be given additional legal powers to help in investigating cases of suspected child abuse. It also recommends an urgent review of the fundamental structure of the child protection service, proposing two options: placing the responsibility with a single authority or sharing the responsibility through a multidisciplinary management structure.

● Social workers should be able to obtain a child assessment order

requiring the parents of the child to present their child at a clinic or GP surgery for a medical examination. A development assessment should also be given for a child under five. Those powers should also extend to health visitors, officers of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the police, and GPs.

● Social workers should have the power to apply for an emergency protection order to remove and detain a child for eight days if they

suspect child abuse, instead of the present place of safety order.

● Social workers and NSPCC officers should be free to inspect premises where a child is living and is thought to be at risk, with a right to see the child.

● When issuing a warrant a magistrate should be empowered to authorize a doctor to conduct a medical examination.

● Action must be taken within 24 hours on any referral suggesting child abuse.

● The police must be told if a social worker has difficulty getting access.

● Where abuse is suspected, all children in the family should be seen.

● Team managers should not act as field workers in child abuse cases, and all social workers must receive regular professional and managerial supervision.

● A child protection information system should be developed

● Any laws concerning management responsibility for child protection should include a specific duty on health authorities to promote the welfare of children.

● Given the rise in reported cases of child abuse, all social services departments should review the organization of their services

● All employers should take steps to protect social workers from violence, and all social workers should report violence.

● Child care and child abuse specifically should be a compulsory part of all basic social work training.

● Social workers should have a minimum three years' training before qualification.

● All health visitor courses should include training on child protection.

● A time limit should be imposed on all criminal trials in relation of child abuse, and within four months of a homicide event.

Professionals should have saved tiny Kimberley's life

By Jill Sherman
Social Services
Correspondent

The death of Kimberley Carlie in 1986 at the hands of her stepfather, Nigel Hall, could have been avoided, a three-month commission of inquiry has concluded.

The commission's 290-page report, published yesterday, makes it clear that professionals from both health and social services were partly responsible for her death.

"We conclude that Kimberley Carlie's death was avoidable through the intervention of the welfare agencies," the commission, led by Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, said.

The report emphasizes that a lack of clarity over the legal powers that social workers already have to investigate suspicious cases and a confusion over the responsibility for a child's welfare undermined the whole series of events leading up to Kimberley's death.

In the Kimberley case, social workers thought the only way they could get the girl to a medical examination was through a Place of Safety Order or persuasion.

The inquiry centres on Greenwich Borough Council and the social worker in charge of the case, Mr Martin Ruddock, who resigned a month ago and left the council's employment yesterday.

Both Mr Ruddock and Miss Marilyn Reader, a health visitor, were "at fault" for their handling of the case, the report says.

Mr Ruddock should never again work in child care in local authority employment, the commission says. "We recommend that he should not in the future perform any of the statutory functions in relation to child protection."

However, the report adds that the responsibility for his and Miss Reader's failings should be shared with their immediate line managers, Mr Don Neil, Greenwich social services area manager and Mrs Ruby Henlin, a senior nurse, who failed to supervise the two fieldworkers.

"Our finding is that each of the four of them failed in a number of serious respects to apply the standard of skill, judgement and care that could objectively be expected from a social worker or health visitor



Kimberley Carlie ... her death may not be in vain.

of their respective grades and experience."

Worral social services and the Wirral health authority are also criticized for failing to pass on full information about the family's background when the Carlies moved from the Wirral to Greenwich, even though two of Kimberley's siblings had been in their care for 14 months prior to the move.

Miss Reader has since gone to work for the social services department at Bromley. The commission said that she did not provide adequate health surveillance of Kimberley and was criticized for not arranging a medical examination.

She accepted Mr Ruddock's assessment of the case too easily, the commission said.

Mr Ruddock, criticized for allowing Kimberley's case to "drift", did not take positive action to check his concerns about her well-being three

months before her death, the commission said.

"We conclude that it was as if Mr Ruddock was going round and round the mulberry bush but not taking the crucial step into the bush to pluck out the helpless child."

"Where we think Mr Ruddock did err in his assessment of the case was to do no more than display a passive watchfulness over Kimberley's welfare."

The report said that Mr Ruddock should at the very least have taken positive action such as calling a case conference, so that different professionals could have shared separately-held pieces of information about the family.

However, the commission added in Mr Ruddock's defence: "He did have a concern for Kimberley and had not forsaken her or given up trying to protect her. It was simply that his attempts fell far short of what could be expected of a social worker."

Mr Ruddock was first alerted about the suspected case of abuse on March 10, 1986, two days after social workers had visited the Carlie home but failed to see Kimberley.

He contacted Miss Reader, the health visitor, the school, Kimberley's elder brother and sister, and his area manager. He visited the Carlie home on the Ferrier Estate himself, but no one was there. He left a message, pointing out to Mrs Carlie that she should take Kimberley and her baby sister to see a GP or health visitor by that Wednesday evening.

He also threatened to contact the Police Juvenile Bureau. The next day, Kimberley's stepfather telephoned Mrs Doreen Armstrong, a senior social worker, and said that Kimberley was "foully, wetting, eating faeces, refusing to eat and making herself sick". He told her that Kimberley had bruises from playing and falling on stairs.

"Mr Hall's call was eloquent testimony to the generally recognized ambivalence of an abusing parent - dismissing the audience and yet seeking to rescue the child from anticipated harm," the report said.

An arranged visit on March 12 was forestalled when Mr Hall and the whole family arrived at Mr Ruddock's office that morning.

By the end of the discussion, Mr Ruddock formed the impression of a happy family, but decided that Kimberley clearly had behavioural problems.

"Mr Ruddock should have realized that Kimberley was seriously at risk, if only because her behaviour as described by her parents was profoundly disturbing. Far from being reassured, Mr Ruddock should have doubted his concern."

Mr Ruddock subsequently arranged a further meeting on April 3, and wrote to the parents advising them that he had requested a health visitor to consider arranging a medical examination.

"There was nothing at all to prevent Mr Ruddock himself arranging a medical examination by calling the GP or the hospital," the report said.

The medical examination did not take place. Mr Ruddock failed to see the child at all himself, despite another visit on April 14, except once, fleetingly through a glass panel above the door to the Carlies' home.

No other professionals involved in child care visited either. Kimberley died as a result of a fatal blow to her head, inflicted by her stepfather on June 8.

"Kimberley's death was not averted because of the failure of Mr Ruddock to operate the existing child abuse system by calling a case conference."

The commission also criticizes the social workers involved in the case for failing to contact the police at any stage. Mr Ruddock's written threat to do so was never followed up or repeated.

The commission emphasized that all the individuals criticized in the case were under considerable pressure of work, caused partly by financial restraints within the rate-capped local authority, which had resulted in low staffing and inadequate facilities, and partly by increased demands on the service due to a rapid rise in reported cases of child abuse.

The inquiry also found that the Greenwich social services department and Greenwich health authority had inadequate procedural guidelines for dealing with cases of child abuse. Both authorities revised their guidelines during the course of the inquiry.



Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, with Miss Elizabeth McMillan and Mr Jim Harding announcing the result of the inquiry yesterday. Mr Martin Ruddock (below left), who was most severely criticized, and the guilty couple, Pauline Carlie and Nigel Hall, who are now in jail (Top photograph: Julian Herbert).



The chronology of the Kimberley Carlie case:

3 November 1981: Kimberley Carlie born.

28 May 1982: Wirral health visitor suspects abuse.

3 March 1983: Kimberley's nursery reports bruises and scars.

29 June: Wirral Social Services declare case "dormant".

2 September: Pauline Carlie marries David Carlie.

25 April 1984: Wirral Social Services stop involvement.

1 May: Carlie arrested for fraud. Place of safety orders on Carlie children Kimberley, X and Y.

4 May: Children taken into voluntary care.

25 May: Carlie discharges children from voluntary care.

13 August: Carlie imprisoned for fraud. Children back in care.

15 August: Long-term placement of children considered.

5 November: Child (Z) born to Carlie. Wardship considered.

13 December: Carlie moves to York with Z, meets Nigel Hall.

8 February 1985: Arrives in London with Hall.

May: Carlie decides to remove children from care. Social Services request check on Nigel Hall.

July: Wirral Social Services willing to discharge children if Carlie gets suitable accommodation.

August: Carlie and Hall move to Greenwich. Collect children.

16 November: Carlie visits health clinic on Ferrier Estate. Marilyn Reader, health visitor, requests health records from Wirral.

5-16 December: Marilyn Reader repeats request twice.

9 January 1986: Eldest Carlie child (X) reports to teacher having been thrown across a room by Hall.

15 January: Marilyn Reader alerted by school. Visits Carlie. Sees only the baby.

17 January: Martin Ruddock, senior social team manager decides to monitor Carlie and Hall.

March: Greenwich Social Services receive anonymous phone call "A little girl about 4 cries very pitifully". Visit, but refused sight of Z and Kimberley. Martin Ruddock leaves letter saying children must be seen by a doctor or health visitor within two days.

March: Hall telephones Social Services. Describes difficulties with a 4-year-old. Meeting, at which Carlie and Hall accept nursery place for Kimberley.

18 March: Family has not responded to nursery place offer.

1 April: Carlie and Hall cancel appointment with Ruddock.

14 April: Marilyn Reader abused by Hall on the phone. Ruddock visits. Only glimpses Kimberley.

12 May: Ruddock and child abuse co-ordinator agree to case conference if Kimberley not seen by early June.

29 May: Hall agrees to bring Kimberley and Z to clinic.

4 June: Hall brings only Z to clinic.

8 June: Kimberley dies. Place of safety orders on X, Y and Z.

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Ruddock replies to attack Full story 'still not told'

By Michael McCarthy

The social worker most criticised in the report, Mr Martin Ruddock, said yesterday: "My personal sense of responsibility is something I shall have to live with for the rest of my life."

Mr Ruddock, who was leader of the social work team in charge of Kimberley Carlie when she was battered to death, resigned this week from his £14,000-a-year post with Greenwich council in obvious expectation of the criticism, which was trenchant.

The report said of him: "He was the prime candidate for blame for his failure to prevent Kimberley Carlie's death at the hands of her stepfather."

Mr Ruddock, who is aged 33 and married with children, had been suspended on full pay during the course of the inquiry. In a statement issued through his solicitor he accepted his responsibility and said: "No inquiry or report can do anything to lessen my sorrow and guilt."

The report recommended

that in future Mr Ruddock "should not perform any of the statutory functions in relation to child protection".

However, it praised him for his frankness before the inquiry panel and called him "an intelligent social worker, conscientious and hard-working".

Part of the problem, it said, was that he was "overworked, to the detriment of his professionalism". His written statement to the inquiry was "movingly reflective and self-critically analytical. It avoids casting blame on others, in circumstances where it might have been expected."

In his statement Mr Ruddock said: "As anticipated, the Blom-Cooper inquiry has criticized me vigorously and unequivocally. Most of their criticisms are no more than I have already said of myself and I accept them."

"I have to say, however, that the full story has still not been told to the public; before passing final judgement on me, my statement to the

inquiry, shortly to be published by Greenwich, should be read."

In a clear reference to the difficulties and strain under which he had been working, he said: "At the end of the day the key question is how best to protect children in the future. Much of what I had hoped to find in the report in terms of understanding the difficulties facing by social workers in doing their jobs, is not there."

"As I said in my evidence to the inquiry, social work is about thinking, assessing and planning. Undiluted and uncontrollable pressure is incompatible with thoughtful work."

"I do not believe that I or social workers generally should be asked to operate in conditions which make good social work impossible, especially in a society that is prepared to pillory a social worker for making a bad decision."

"I live daily with my responsibilities in this case, and it hurts."

Decision is sought on longer training

By A Staff Reporter

Specific improvements in the training of social workers were recommended two years ago by the inquiry, chaired also by Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, into the death of Jasmine Beckford.

The main recommendation, that the length of basic training should be increased from two years to three, is still under discussion. The Kimberley inquiry report recommends a speedy decision.

The Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work (CCETSW), the statutory body, sent its detailed prospectus about the changes to the Department of Health and Social Security in October after lengthy consultations.

Entitled *Care for Tomorrow*, it further recommends a new and extended curriculum and a new qualification, the Qualifying Diploma in Social Work.

The Kimberley inquiry report says: "We recommend that the DHSS and the CCETSW come speedily to a

decision on the minimum period of basic training for social workers."

The CCETSW has estimated the cost of the extended training period at £40 million at 1986 prices. Mr Tony Hall, director of the CCETSW, denied there had been any unnecessary delay in putting the proposals forward.

He said that it was a complex subject because it involved consultation with six separate government departments as well as local authorities, unions, universities, polytechnics and colleges of further education.

"If the Government gives the go-ahead before the end of the current financial year then we will be able to start the new training in 1991. That is an indication of how complex a project it is," Mr Hall said.

"We believe £40 million is a small price to pay for the improvements in standards which could be achieved, and which are badly needed," Mr Antony Newton, Minister for Health, is studying the proposals.

Four years of sorrow, pain and finally, death

In her four short, tragic years, Kimberley Carlie was transformed from a delightful, bubbly toddler into a battered, blistered, living skeleton.

She was starved to skin and bone, tortured and burned and finally, her frail body was kicked to death.

The horror of her injuries stunned everyone, but most shocking of all was that they were all inflicted inside the family home.

Her stepfather, Nigel Hall, tortured the girl mercilessly while her mother, Pauline Carlie, kept quiet.

At the Central Criminal Court in London, the jury was told that when Kimberley died on June 8 last year,

she weighed just 24lb - half her correct weight - and was covered in bruises and cigarette burns.

Her head, forehead, cheek, stomach, back arms, legs and her genital area were all covered in bruises. She also had internal injuries.

She had wounds on her shins caused by blows or kicks. Perhaps most appalling of all, she had 15 "weeping" cigarette burns down her spine and hips.

She was finally killed by a blow to her left temple, which caused bleeding beneath her skull.

Until October 1985, Kimberley had spent 18 happy months in the "tender

care" of her foster parents in the Wirral.

But then she was returned, through social service agencies, to her twice-married mother, who had set up home in south London with Hall.

In the eight months up to her death, Kimberley was the victim of "appalling, systematic cruelty". She was kept a virtual prisoner in her mother's council maisonette and spent Christmas Day padlocked in her bedroom with no Christmas dinner and no presents.

She was left standing in the snow dressed only in a vest and pants and once Hall, in a violent temper,

plunged her into a bath of scalding water.

Neighbours heard Kimberley's screams and after noticing bruises on her body, alerted Greenwich social services. An anonymous caller telephoned the department, concerned about the whole Carlie family, but in particular "a little girl about four".

Hall would not allow social workers to see the girl. They gave up trying, and she was left to die at his hands. A case conference was finally convened on Kimberley on June 9, 1986 - the day after her death.

Hall is serving a life sentence for murder. Pauline Carlie was sentenced to 12 years for previous bodily harm.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Gabon releases British Iranian

Mr Masoud Ghassari, an Iranian living in Britain, was yesterday released from the former French colony of Gabon and flown home to London after a British offer to intervene (Andrew McEwen writes). He had been held in Libreville with 16 other supporters of an organization which is opposed to Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran.

The 17 were rounded up in Paris on Tuesday and expelled in what was suspected to be part of an exchange deal between the French and Iranian governments. Britain took up Mr Ghassari's case at the request of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees because he had refugee status.

Last night, Mr Ole Volting, the UNHCR's London representative, expressed concern for the 15 Iranians remaining in Libreville. "I very much hope that France will reconsider its decision and allow them to return," he said. "The twists and turns of French foreign policy continued with the news yesterday that Iraq hopes to buy around a dozen warplanes from France (Philip Jacobson writes). Having just improved relations with Iran, this poses the Chinese Government with some ticklish problems."

Iran anger Harare at Hawke accord

Sydney — Iran has denounced Australia's decision to put 20 Navy divers on standby for mine-clearing operations in the Gulf after an appeal for support from the United States (Keith Dalton writes). Australia's decision was a breach of its professed neutrality in the Iran-Iraq war and would only increase tension in the Gulf, Iran's Chargé d'Affaires, Mr Abbas Alamolhodha, said yesterday.

But the Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, dismissed the charges. The decision to send the frogmen appears to have been taken primarily to bolster American goodwill after the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, raised the matter informally with Mr Hawke when the latter visited California.

Plea for Ethiopia aid

Addis Ababa (Reuter) — Drought-hit Ethiopia needs at least 1.3 million tonnes of food aid, 250,000 tonnes more than the Government in Addis Ababa estimates, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said yesterday.

The FAO director-general, Mr Edouard Saouma, in an urgent appeal for new pledges of aid, said the 420,000 tonnes promised so far would last only until March. "Only sustained international assistance in the coming weeks will avert widespread famine and loss of life, especially in those areas most seriously affected," he said.

Jet debris spotted

Seoul (Reuter) — A US Navy plane has sighted debris, believed to be from a missing South Korean airliner, floating in the Andaman Sea off Burma, Korean Air Lines officials said yesterday.

The KAL aircraft disappeared on November 29 during a flight from Baghdad to Seoul. South Korean officials suspect that an Asian couple, who took poison capsules after disembarking in Abu Dhabi, were North Korean agents who planted a bomb on board the aircraft. An airline official said work to retrieve the debris started yesterday.

Goldsmith leaving

Paris — Sir James Goldsmith, the colourful Anglo-French financier, is stepping down as head of the editorial committee of the weekly magazine *L'Express* (Philip Jacobson writes). The magazine announced yesterday that Sir James, who sold it to the giant Compagnie Générale d'Electricité last July as part of a complex £250 million deal, was going to be out of France for several months.

The move will strengthen speculation that CGE wants to sell *L'Express*.

Soviet-American Strategic Nuclear Balance

United States					Soviet Union				
Missile System	Year Deployed	Range (km)	Number Deployed	Total Warheads	Missile System*	Year Deployed	Range (km)	Number Deployed	Total Warheads
ICBM					ICBM				
Minuteman II	1966	11,300	450	450	SS11 Sego	1966	9,600	440	440
Minuteman III	1970	14,800	527	1,581	SS13 Savage	1968	9,400	80	80
MX	1986	11,000	23	230	SS17 Spunker	1982	10,000	150	600
Sub-total			1,000	2,261	SS18 Satan	1982	11,000	308	3,080
					SS19 Stiletto	1982	10,000	360	2,160
					SS25 Sickle	1985	10,500	100	100
					Sub-total			1,418	6,440
SLBM					SLBM				
Poseidon C3	1971	4,000	256	3,584	SSN6 Serb	1968	2,400	272	272
Trident C4	1980	7,400	384	3,072	SSN8 Sawfly	1972	7,800	292	292
Sub-total			640	6,656	SSN17 Snipe	1977	3,900	12	12
					SSN18 Stingray	1977	6,500	224	1,568
					SSN20 Sturgeon	1981	8,300	80	720
					SSN23 Skiff	1985	8,300	48	480
					Sub-total (SLBM)			928	3,944
Bombers					Bombers				
B52G/H (non-ALCM)	1959	12,000	119	1,428	Bear H (ALCM)	1956	12,800	50	1,000
B52G/H (ALCM)	1982	12,000	144	2,880	Bear (non-ALCM)	1956	12,800	100	200
B1	1986	12,000	54	648	Bison	1956	11,200	15	60
Sub-total			317	4,956	Sub-total			165	1,260
TOTAL			1,957	13,873	TOTAL			2,511	11,044

* NATO designation. ICBM = Intercontinental Ballistic Missile; SLBM = Sea-launched Ballistic Missile; ALCM = Air-launched Cruise Missile. Source: International Institute for Strategic Studies

First steps to a strategic arms curb

By Our Defence Correspondent

No one in Washington or Moscow had expected the summit to produce a detailed agreement on reducing strategic weapons by 50 per cent (6,000 warheads for each side). The issues at stake are immensely complex, far beyond the capability of two leaders to resolve in a few days, even with the back-up of arms control teams. Yet the summit communiqué reveals significant steps forward.

The most important agreement is on verification. Encouraged by the unprecedented measures agreed for the INF Treaty, the two leaders have agreed that both sides will be able to count the number of warheads on the strategic weapon systems to be eliminated under a 50 per cent reduction agreement.

Under the Salt 2 treaty, the warhead accounting was based on the number deployed on flight tests. So, for example, if the US flight tested a Trident D5 submarine-launched missile with the

maximum 12 warheads, it would be assumed that each Trident missile contained the same number of warheads. But now it is agreed both sides will be able to count the warheads, because not every missile will have the same warhead configurations. This will entail the most stringent verification procedure.

Building on the provisions of the INF Treaty, there will also be extensive site inspections, rights of short-notice challenge, data exchanges and permanent monitoring outside production facilities.

The Russians have also agreed to leave the long-range submarine-launched nuclear-armed cruise missiles (SLCMs) out of the reckoning when reducing strategic warheads to 6,000 for each side.

The Americans have always insisted on treating SLCMs separately from the strategic systems. The Russians have not objected, although they wanted a separate ceiling of 400 SLCMs. Now the two leaders have agreed to negotiate a

"mutually acceptable" ceiling for SLCMs over and above the 6,000 warhead limit for strategic warheads.

There is significant movement on the issue of sub-limits for each leg of the strategic triad, the intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), the submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) and heavy, long-range bombers. Prior to the summit, the US wanted only 4,800 of the warheads to be ballistic, with a limit of 3,300 on ICBMs, where Moscow has a huge inventory. The US has never proposed a sub-limit on SLBMs, where it has the advantage.

The Russians originally offered a ceiling on ballistic warheads of 3,100, but recently came up with sub-limits of 3,000 on ICBMs, 1,800 to 2,000 on SLBMs, and 800 to 900 on air-launched cruise missiles. According to the communiqué, they have now agreed to limit the number of ballistic warheads to 4,900 within the overall 6,000 ceiling.

Nato salutes INF Treaty and looks to strategic arms deal

Europe warns Senate not to drag its feet

From Richard Owen

Nato yesterday hailed the INF Treaty signed in Washington this week as an historic triumph and said its unprecedented verification measures pointed the way forward to a further deal limiting strategic missiles, possibly in time for the Moscow summit next year.

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, briefing Nato foreign ministers on the summit, said there was still a long way to go. But the fact that the superpowers had avoided a confrontation over Star Wars (the Strategic Defence Initiative), was a hopeful sign. The two sides had agreed in their joint statement at the end of the summit that the ABM Treaty of 1972 permitted testing, and had put on one side the question of interpreting the treaty. This was "a basis for further work".

Mr Shultz said there was "de-

linkage" of the strategic missile issue and SDI in the sense that the joint US-Soviet statement referred to one treaty on strategic weapons and another, separate treaty on space defenses.

There were good prospects for a strategic weapons (Start) deal and "we can really see the shape of it", Mr Shultz said. But this did not mean that Start was no longer related to SDI. On the contrary, the issue of offensive weapons was clearly related to space-based defenses against such weapons, and the US agreed that "we have to think about them together in a doctrinal sense".

Nato officials said that the Russians, who have previously insisted that progress on strategic missiles be linked to American concessions on SDI, appeared to have decided it was "pointless to take Reagan on directly over SDI — at least for the time being".

The foreign ministers of the five European countries which provided bases for cruise or Pershing 2 missiles — Britain, Belgium, Italy, The Netherlands and West Germany — signed agreements with Mr Shultz setting out the conditions under which inspectors will be allowed access to bases to ensure that missiles and launchers are totally destroyed.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said the INF Treaty, with verification procedures of "unprecedented rigour", was a triumph of Nato unity and common purpose over seven "turbulent years" — a reference to Nato's 1979 decision to negotiate with Moscow but deploy cruise and Pershing missiles until the talks succeeded.

The INF Treaty was a "striking achievement" whose verification provisions set the precedent for future arms control, Sir Geoffrey

said, adding that verifying Start would be "indefinitely more complex".

Sir Geoffrey and other Nato ministers appealed to the US Senate to ratify the INF Treaty swiftly and not to use alleged European reservations to justify delay. Hestiation, he said, would be "disastrous".

Mr Shultz recalled that in America storekeepers often had a sign saying "In God we trust — but all others, cash". "This is the cash," he said, referring to the INF verification guarantees.

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, also urged swift ratification. He recalled Nato's commitment in June to draw up a comprehensive post-INF package involving not only conventional and chemical weapons reductions but also — "in conjunction" with these — reductions in shorter-range missiles with a range under 300 miles.

Other Nato ministers were reluctant to take this up, however, in case it exacerbates the dispute between Bonn, which fears that short-range missiles can only hit German targets, and the other allies, who fear a "third zero" will lead to the de-nuclearization of Europe.

Responding to Warsaw Pact criticisms of alleged "compensatory measures" being planned by Nato, Sir Geoffrey said that Nato was merely modernizing the forces which remained after INF.

He declined to say what measures Nato might have in mind, but said that new air and submarine-launched missiles would fall within the context of modernization plans. Such improvements were under consideration in Nato, but they always had been, and modernization did not stop simply because the INF Treaty had been signed.

Leading article, page 9

East bloc backs cuts in balance of forces

From John England, East Berlin

Leaders of the Warsaw Pact, meeting here yesterday for a briefing from Mr Mikhail Gorbachev on his negotiations with President Reagan, reaffirmed their readiness to ensure a balance of East-West forces in Europe on the principle of the side with more strength making cutbacks.

But expectations of a firmer offer on reducing their conventional forces were not fulfilled.

A statement issued after Mr Gorbachev had talked to the Communist Party leaders of East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Bulgaria, and the Foreign Minister of Romania, in the absence of President Ceausescu, said they all expressed their full support and high appreciation of the results of the Soviet leader's meeting with Mr Reagan.

A step of historic dimension had been taken that — was already having a beneficial influence on the political climate of the planet, it added.

The verbal bouquets for Mr Gorbachev came after real ones had been handed to him at East Berlin's Schönfeld Airport where he flew in — two

hours behind schedule — to a hero's welcome. He was greeted by Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, his Politburo, and hundreds of flag-waving East Germans.

One woman shouted to him: "Good work!" Mr Gorbachev, enjoying the adulation, laughed heartily. His wife, Raisa, much evident in Washington, dropped out of sight after her husband was whisked to the Palais Hotel for his talks, which lasted nearly three hours.

The statement said that the Pact welcomed the signing of the INF Treaty by Mr Gorbachev and President Reagan, and said it was of basic significance that the United States and the Soviet Union had reached agreement in principle on a 50 per cent reduction in strategic nuclear weapons. The signing of such a treaty, which was possible in the near future, would be of fundamental progress in disarmament and the creation of a world free from nuclear weapons and force.

The Pact members, the statement said, also believed that the agreements achieved in Washington had streng-

ened the preconditions for reining in the arms race in other directions. These, above all, were a ban on and disposal of chemical weapons, and a stop to nuclear testing, as well as the reduction of conventional forces and arms in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

While expressing their readiness to solve the problem of asymmetries in the balance of forces in Europe, the Pact leaders also spoke darkly of their concern over the intentions of "certain Nato circles" to "compensate" for the disposal of intermediate-range nuclear missiles by restocking and modernizing other types of weapons.

This was seen by some Western observers as a reference to arch-conservatives in Bonn who are still opposed to Chancellor Kohl's offer to scrap West Germany's 72 ageing Pershing 1A missiles.

The foreign ministers of the Soviet Union, East Germany and Czechoslovakia signed a basing-countries agreement on inspections of disposals of INF weapons as part of the US-Soviet treaty, before all



Treaty twins: Mrs Galina Sakharova proudly holding her sons, named Mikhail and Ronald, born at the Moscow natal clinic during the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Washington.

the delegates went to a late lunch.

In a toast at the lunch, Mr Gorbachev told his comrades that the signing of the INF

Treaty would not have been possible if the socialist countries had not been united and firm in fighting for disarmament.

Progress achieved in weapon control

These are the achievements on arms control issues in the summit communiqué.

● INF Treaty: "This treaty is historic both for its objective — the complete elimination of an entire class of US and Soviet nuclear arms — and for the innovative character and scope of its verification provisions."

● Strategic Offensive Arms (SOAs): The negotiators in Geneva have been instructed to work towards completion of the Start treaty, "preferably in time for signature during the next meeting of leaders of state in the first half of 1988". There is a new agreed ceiling of 4,900 ballistic warheads on ICBMs and SLBMs within the overall 6,000 limit.

Verification for a Start agreement will build on the provisions contained in the INF Treaty. This will "include open displays (for the benefit of spy satellites) of treaty-limited items at missile bases, bomber bases and submarine ports at locations and times chosen by the inspecting party". Both sides will agree on a separate ceiling for long-range submarine-launched cruise missiles.

● Strategic Defence research and the ABM Treaty: The delegations in Geneva are instructed "to work out an agreement that would commit the sides to observe the ABM Treaty, as signed in 1972, while conducting their research, development and testing as required, which are permitted by the ABM Treaty and not to withdraw from the ABM Treaty for a specified period of time."

"Intensive discussions of strategic stability shall begin not later than three years before the end of the specified period, after which, in the event of the sides having not agreed otherwise, each side will be free to decide its course of action."

"The sides shall discuss ways to ensure predictability in the development of the US-Soviet strategic relationship."

● Nuclear Testing: The two leaders welcomed the opening on November 9 1987, of full-scale, step-by-step negotiations and the agreement to exchange experts' visits to each other's nuclear testing sites in January 1988.

● Nuclear Non-Proliferation: The two leaders reaffirmed the continued commitment of the US and the Soviet Union to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

● Chemical weapons: The leaders expressed their "commitment to negotiation of a verifiable, comprehensive and effective international convention on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons..."

● Conventional weapons: "The two leaders spoke in favour of early completion of the work in Vienna on the mandate for negotiations on this issue..."

Pledge to expand contacts

Following is a partial text of the sections dealing with issues other than arms control in the joint US-Soviet summit statement issued here:

Human rights and humanitarian concerns: The leaders held a thorough and candid discussion of human rights and humanitarian questions and their place in the US-Soviet dialogue.

Regional issues: The President and the General Secretary engaged in a wide-ranging, frank and business-like discussion of regional questions, including Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq war, the Middle East, Cambodia, southern Africa, Central America and other issues.

They acknowledged serious differences, but agreed on the importance of their regular exchange of views. The two leaders noted the increasing importance of settling regional conflicts to reduce international tensions and to improve East-West relations.

They agreed that the goal of the dialogue between the United States and the Soviet Union on these issues should be to help the parties to regional conflicts find peaceful solutions that advance their independence, freedom and security.

Both leaders emphasized the importance of enhancing the capacity of the United Nations and other international institutions to contribute to the resolution of regional conflicts.

Bilateral affairs: The President and the General Secretary reviewed in detail the state of US-Soviet bilateral relations.

They recognized the utility of further expanding and strengthening bilateral contacts, exchanges and co-operation. The two leaders called

for intensified efforts by their representatives, aimed at reaching mutually advantageous agreements on: commercial maritime issues; fishing; marine search and rescue; radio navigational systems; the US-USSR maritime boundary; and co-operation in the field of transportation and other areas...

People-to-people contacts and exchanges: They noted with particular satisfaction the progress made in the development of people-to-people co-operation in this area.

Cape Canaveral — The United States Navy conducted a test firing of a Trident 2 nuclear missile yesterday, a day after President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev ended their nuclear arms control summit (Reuter reports).

The Trident 2, designed to give US and British submarines the capability of destroying Soviet missiles in their silos, roared from a ground launch pad and headed for an undisclosed target in the Atlantic, defence officials said. The warhead test was originally scheduled for Thursday, the final day of the summit, but the officials said it was postponed until after Mr Gorbachev had ended his visit. The test firing was the eighth in the current American series.

... a process which has involved tens of thousands of US and Soviet citizens over the past two years. The leaders reaffirmed their strong commitment further to expand such contacts, including among the young.

Global climate and environmental change initiative: ... The two leaders approved a bilateral initiative to pursue joint studies in global climate and environmental change through co-operation in areas of mutual concern, such as protection and conservation of stratospheric ozone ... There will be a detailed study on the climate of the future.

The two sides will continue to promote broad international and bilateral co-operation in the increasingly important area of global climate and environmental change.

Co-operative activities: ... They affirmed the intention of

the US and the USSR to co-operate with the European atomic energy community and Japan, under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in the quadripartite conceptual design of a fusion test reactor. The two leaders noted with satisfaction progress ... towards establishing a permanent working group in the field of nuclear reactor safety, and expressed their readiness to develop further co-operation in this area.

They also agreed to build on recent contacts to develop more effective co-operation in ensuring the security of air and maritime transportation.

... They expressed support for the development of bilateral and regional co-operation among the Arctic countries on these matters, including co-ordination of scientific research and protection of the region's environment.

The two leaders welcomed the conclusion of negotiations to institutionalize the Cospas/Sarsat space-based global search and rescue system, operated jointly by the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Canada.

Tear gas and rubber bullets fail to quell Arab protests

Israeli troops kill four more Palestinian demonstrators

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Four more Palestinian youngsters were killed by Israeli gunfire yesterday as the worst period of bloodshed for at least five years continued to sweep through the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Their deaths bring the total who have died violently in the past week to eight Arabs and one Israeli, with dozens more wounded and requiring hospital treatment.

In addition, an Israeli Navy officer and four Arabs were killed during a sea battle at night off the coast of southern Lebanon in a fierce clash which underlined that Israel is having to fight within and beyond its frontiers to maintain order and security.

Since October 1, 18 Arabs and nine Israelis have been killed in different incidents.

Hundreds of extra troops have now been drafted into the occupied territories, sparking demonstrations by their very presence. One such protest on the West Bank began yesterday at Balata camp, near

Nablis, following noon prayers at the mosque. These include what amounts to political speeches by the Imam (priest).

The Friday congregation, already angered by the violence in the territories during the week, spilled out into the town, protesting and throwing stones at the troops.

After tear gas and rubber bullets failed to break up the crowd, soldiers opened fire, killing three immediately and fatally wounding a fourth.

Palestinian sources claimed that more than 50 people needed treatment for gunshot wounds or tear-gas asphyxiation. They also complained that troops prevented ambulances from going into Balata to find and treat the wounded, even opening fire on some and dragging out drivers and beating them to enforce the curfew placed on the camp, which is the largest in the West Bank with a population of 50,000.

As news of the Balata incident spread, another camp



An Israeli soldier firing tear gas up a narrow alley at Balata camp, near Nablis, where 50,000 Palestinian refugees live.

near Nablis—at Ein Bet Ina—began its own protest, burning tyres and setting up roadblocks. One boy, aged nine, was reported to have been shot in the foot there as troops moved in at dusk to break up the demonstration.

In Gaza, a massive army presence largely succeeded in maintaining order, though one patrol was attacked by a petrol bomber and one boy was reported to have been seriously wounded by gunfire.

Israel mourned the death of

Second Lieutenant Amit Sela, aged 21, who died when the gunboat on which he was serving moved in near the mouth of the Litani river to investigate a small rubber boat.

Israeli gunboats maintain a permanent patrol off the Lebanese coast to prevent attempts to infiltrate the border by sea. One such attempt by three men on board a rubber dinghy last year nearly succeeded and ended with a bloody gun-battle on the shore.

Israeli military sources in-

sist that Israel has abandoned its old policy of automatic and indiscriminate retaliation for any attack.

Instead, Israeli retaliation is supposed to be targeted specifically at groups who are believed to be responsible for planning and carrying out attacks.

Therefore, it is unlikely that there will be any speedy retaliation for the sea battle unless Israeli intelligence succeeds in pinpointing where the attack started.

An Israeli settler in the Gaza Strip, Mr Shimon Efrat, was yesterday charged with the manslaughter of a Palestinian schoolgirl, aged 17, last month. He is alleged to have got out of his car and deliberately fired into a school courtyard, fatally wounding her in the back.

The girl's death has been an important factor in creating the recent tension which has led to the violent demonstrations seen throughout the occupied territories.

Seoul promise of tough action on election violence

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

The South Korean Government has vowed to take stern measures to quell mounting violence before it overwhelms the presidential election campaign.

A statement issued after an emergency Cabinet meeting yesterday expressed deep concern about attacks against Mr Roh Tae Woo, the candidate of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, at rallies in the southern province of Cholla on Thursday.

Mr Roh, the chosen successor of President Chun, cut short one appearance and was forced to cancel another by militant students hurling stones, petrol bombs and tear-gas powder.

"The violence was a direct challenge to the authority of the Government, and therefore it is inevitable that stern measures be taken to cope with this situation," the Cabinet statement said. "From now on, it will no longer tolerate any violent activities which disrupt the public's right to make a free choice."

Polling is due to take place next Wednesday and a crucial test of the Government's resolve may come today, when Mr Roh is to address a rally at an open-air plaza in Seoul.

The National Coalition for a Democratic Constitution, comprising dissident groups virulently opposed to the DJP leader, is planning to stage a demonstration elsewhere in the capital. Adding to the volatile mixture will be a rally by Mr Park Ki Wan, an independent opposition candidate, which is expected to attract radical students. Security forces will be on full alert.

It is perhaps just as well the election is only a few days away, since the political atmosphere is now that of a pressure cooker with the lid threatening to blow off at any moment. Mr Kim Dae Jung, one of the two principal opposition challengers, raised the temperature yesterday by adding a charge of murder to allegations of bribery and corruption against supporters of the ruling party.

According to Mr Kim Dae Jung, a young soldier was beaten to death on December 4 by his commanding officer after voting for him under the absentee ballot system. The victim, identified as Chung Yun Kwan, a 23-year-old corporal, was cremated two days later.

No evidence of the killing has been forthcoming so far, and government spokesmen said they had "no information" on the allegation.

Mr Kim Dae Jung also claimed that the commanding officer of another unit had suppressed ballots by 2,000 Marines largely favourable to him. However, three Korean soldiers, who spoke to *The Times* last night on condition of anonymity, said they had voted on December 5 without interference.

With a significant proportion of the electorate apparently still undecided, the outcome of South Korea's first direct presidential election for 16 years remains in doubt. However, there is a growing conviction that Mr Kim Young Sam, widely regarded as the more moderate of the opposition challengers, may be marginally ahead.

Shanghai disaster

Peking—At least 11 people were trampled to death and another 92 injured in a ferry pier stampede on the Huangpu River in Shanghai (Robert Greives writes). Some 30,000 commuters stranded at the Lujiazui pier after fog delayed rush-hour river traffic rushed down a pontoon bridge to a late-arriving ferry. A few people stumbled and were trampled by those behind. The Lujiazui terminal handles 13,000 people an hour.

Lini wins

Port Vila (AFP)—Despite ill health and a strong challenge from a rival, Father Walter Lini became Vanuatu's Prime Minister for a third term.

North 'award'

New York (AP)—*Esquire* named Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North the most "Dumbest Man of the Year".

Kidnap charge

Reinas (Reuters)—A Portuguese club owner, Senhor Ferrara Sampaio, was charged with involvement in the Spanish kidnapping of Melodie Nakachian, aged five.

Drugs haul

Delhi (AFP)—Government agents seized heroin worth £2.5 million in Bombay.

Body found

Copenhagen (Reuters)—A woman lay dead at her home for six months before being found by bailiffs calling to evict her for not paying rent.

Aids 'fortress'

Stockholm (Reuters)—Plans to hold unruly Aids carriers on an island in Stockholm's commuter belt have raised fears of an "Aids Alcatraz".

Icy roads toll

Paris (Reuters)—One person died and more than 100 people were injured as roads in western France iced over.

Rock leader

Gibraltar—Mr Adolfo Canepa was sworn in as Gibraltar's Chief Minister, succeeding Sir Joshua Hassan.

Letter from Rome

Magistrates trip light Fantastico

An extraordinary battle has broken out between the Italian authorities and one of the country's top television stars, who has been using his prime-time Saturday night programme to preach against nuclear power, seal-bashing and the Italian practice of shooting songbirds.

Roman magistrates have just fined the compare and pop star, Adriano Celentano, £100,000 for trying to influence this autumn's nuclear referendum. In response to his appeal, many thousands of Italians spoilt their votes by scribbling "I love seals" or "Down with hunting" on their ballot papers.

Celentano is an odd figure. At 49 he is still known to many maternally minded Italians as the "Urchin from the street of fortune"—the title of one of his hits. With his crumpled red silk suits and boxer's face, he has captured a wide following as a television show master. On Saturday evenings almost 12 million viewers tune in to watch him play host for four hours to semi-naked, high-kicking chorus girls, silky crooners and stand-up comedians.

There are three problems. First, the show, *Fantastico*, is live. Second, it is on the state television service, Rai. And, finally, Celentano seems to be undergoing a kind of mid-life crisis that has propelled him into radical pro-seal and anti-nuclear postures.

On October 24—two weeks before the national referendum on nuclear energy—he slipped in the declaration: "I am against atomic power stations" and expounded his ecological views. The Rai directors reprimanded him. Celentano took umbrage and teleaxed from his home in Milan that either he could say what he wanted or he would not appear. Rai, with stiff competition from private television which has been deploying the muscular charms of Engine Nielsen, estranged

wife of Sylvester Stallone, cannot afford to lose its star.

The crisis point came on the eve of the referendum. Celentano started to shout at Italian hunters who "slaughter two million songbirds a year". Voters, he said, should go out the next day and write their views about this on their ballot papers. The ecological Green Party has long been calling for a referendum on the hunting of small birds, but the powerful hunting lobby has always thwarted them.

Celentano followed up his appeal by cutting in a piece of grisly film about the battering of seals that has never been shown before in Italy. This had a profoundly shocking effect on the viewers.

The Rai management were at their wits' end, arguing in the corridors about whether to pull the plug on their star. The next day, the morning of the referendum, there were apologetic noises on the main news programme. After civil proceedings were started against Celentano, the board of governors made the star sit down and sign a commitment to respect the ban on television propaganda. To flout the ban in future "would be an immediate breach of contract, with all that entails".

Yesterday the governors started an inquiry into how live transmissions can be protected from entertainers who aspire to politics. As a first step, Celentano will have to submit in advance the text of his jokes.

Celentano is philosophical about the whole affair. Paid several million pounds for 14 shows, the fine of £100,000 represents somewhat less than an hour's work. He will match the fine with a £100,000 contribution to research into Aids. Meanwhile, the TV chiefs await, with trepidation, the next Saturday night showing of *Fantastico*.

Roger Boyes



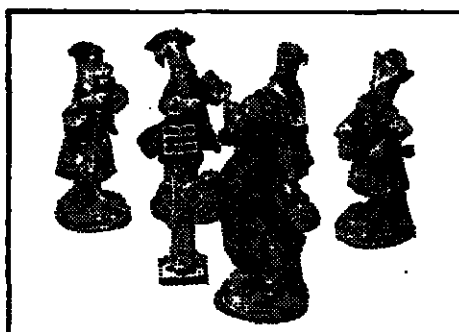
Such a bubbly atmosphere at Bonhams.



The art world had been gossiping for months about what Bonhams were up to.



Many guests arrived in style.



The band played on doggedly above the happy din of conversation.



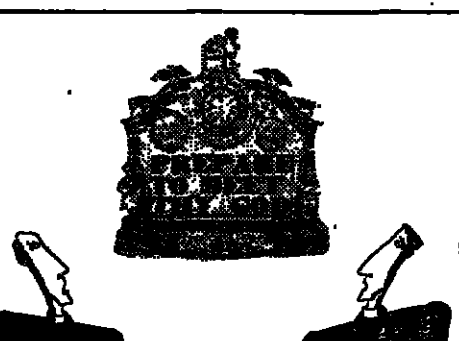
Mr Christopher Elwes, Mr. Nicholas Bonham, and Mr. Paul Whitfield, who together will lead Bonhams into its third century, congratulate Wim Cornelius Olthoff on her appointment as Director of the Picture Department.



The department heads are bursting with talent and vitality.



Bonhams take a very personal interest in their clients.



Now there's Sunday viewing, too.

RENAISSANCE IN KNIGHTSBRIDGE

BY CANDIDA TRILLING

Arriving down from the country by afternoon train somewhat breathlessly, I was just able to return to the flat to change out of tweeds for an event which I expect will be remembered not only as a sparkling social occasion of the Autumn season, but also a watershed in the history of the great London auction houses. It was the reception at Bonhams to celebrate the recent renovation of their Montpelier Street premises.

I can confirm that Bonhams certainly is marching to a more sprightly tune. As one would expect there were plenty of beautiful art treasures on view, which are undoubtedly a good investment, however pricey, and some of my favourites are displayed on this page. It was a completely relaxed occasion, with a great number of charming members of staff and their interesting guests mixing happily, and I enjoyed myself thoroughly.

I also heard much favourable comment that, at long last, there was an auction house that was moving with the times, attuned to its audience, and more interested in its customers than the price of its shares. Clearly Bonhams clients feel it is a very elegant and

friendly auction house, as well as extremely well run.

Bonhams ranks as the fourth largest London auction house, and has an equally ancient and distinguished pedigree dating back to its founding in 1793, but is still small enough to offer a very individual service. Although the families of Messrs. Sotheby, Christie, and Phillips are, sadly, no longer associated with the firms that bear their names, there really is a Mr. Bonham! The youthful and gregarious Mr. Nicholas Bonham, well known for his exploits on the Cresta Run, is deputy Chairman and the sixth generation of his family in the business, and he is every inch the knowledgeable and charming auctioneer.

He told me that there had been a great deal of speculation for many months about what Bonhams are up to, ever since Mr. Paul Whitfield and Mr. Christopher Elwes joined Bonhams in April after long careers at Christie's.

There were delicious things for the guests to eat, and we were served a delightful cocktail called "Under the Hammer", which in my humble opinion was absolutely stunning, as well as appropriate to the occasion. The witty and enthusiastic Mr. Whitfield told me it had been specially concocted from a recipe in the Savoy Cocktail Book, first edition, from 1930, a copy of which, he said, would fetch a good price at a Bonham's book auction today.

Old Acquaintance Renewed

I was reminded of the launch of Christie's South Kensington, some years ago, which Mr. Whitfield, as a Christie's furniture specialist, had started up in company with Mr. Elwes, whose field is porcelain. Mr. Whitfield later returned to Christie's King Street as Managing Director, and was subsequently appointed Group Marketing Director on the board of Christie's International, before moving to Bonhams.

Of course I also met Mr. Elwes again, who as always was very cheerful and hospitable. He had been Managing Director at Christie's South Kensington and now holds the same position at Bonhams, where I am sure his energy and efficiency will attract a loyal following. I could only agree with his view that it is the client who builds the business, and that it is the job of the auctioneer to make things as easy and enjoyable as possible.

I would certainly recommend an early visit to the superbly redecorated Knightsbridge saleroom. It's a lively and friendly place to buy and sell, or just browse. I am told that Bonhams now offer more viewing hours than any other London auction house. Viewing normally takes place for three days before each sale, an excellent opportunity to walk around quietly and see so much, and consider the estimated prices which are published in the catalogues. Bonhams specialists are always available to discuss any piece.

It's surprising what value you can find, at prices ranging from under a hundred pounds to tens of thousands, and an enchanting young lady from the silver department, who was busy helping look after the guests, told me something I hadn't realised—most items sold at auction do not attract Value Added Tax. I spied a most attractive George III sugar basin, just perfect for my latest godchild's christening.

Always on Sunday

There's even a wine bar-cum-coffee shop, exclusively for Bonhams clients, and managed by such an engaging young lady, which serves an excellent selection of salads, baguettes, and hot or cold soup according to the season, as well as proper coffee, and a small but good range of wines personally selected by the Directors, she told me. Another very successful new idea is the Sunday afternoon viewings, which should enliven many a dreary winter weekend in town.

For anyone who is considering selling an antique, or almost any item of value or unusual interest, I would personally suggest that these be taken to Bonhams for a free

valuation. I was told you will be seen right away, almost always by the relevant department head, and no appointment is necessary.

I heard that Bonhams are also able to offer a free, informal valuation in your own home, without obligation. There's a special 'broom clean' service, too, which undertakes to sell the entire contents of a house or flat. The less valuable items find a ready market at the popular Bonhams Chelsea branch, where venturesome buyers profit from an ever-changing choice of more accessible art and youngish antiques as well as good quality household furniture and furnishings. And, in tune with the times, they will accept credit card payment at Chelsea.

The Bonham Card

A dear friend showed me her new Bonhamcard. This is a rather more exclusive bit of plastic which gives regular visitors some very special privileges at Bonhams and useful establishments such as nearby restaurants and picture framers, as well as helpful little complimentary services including instant snapshots of any items on offer, and use of the telephone. What a clever idea!

Another thoroughly sensible notion is a very handy and interesting illustrated auction guide, describing the forthcoming sales, which Bonhams are now publishing every other month, and I understand it is planned to make that generally available to anyone who is interested in auctions. With the selection of really good quality art and antiques now converging on Knightsbridge, and the increased specialist interest in the "new collectibles" at Chelsea, it is evident that regular excursions to Bonhams are now a highly attractive feature of the London season.

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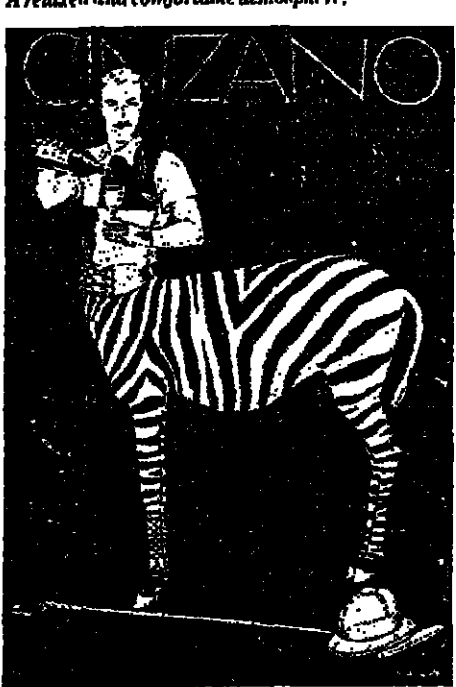
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What's on auction at Bonhams



A relaxed and comfortable atmosphere.



The Smith's Lawn crowd were there, of course.



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On reflection the morning afterwards, I am sure almost everyone agreed that it was altogether a really superb evening.

مكتبة الفصحى

Zaragoza car bomb shatters five-week lull in Eta terror campaign

Civil Guard children die in barrack blast

From Richard Wigg, Bilbao

Ten people, including three children, were killed yesterday in a car bomb attack on the Civil Guard barracks in Zaragoza, north-eastern Spain.

More than 30 others were injured, some seriously, by the 6am explosion in a Renault 18 parked beside part of the building inhabited by about 30 Civil Guard families.

The attack on Aragón's capital marked the end of a five-week national lull in attacks by Eta, the Basque separatist organization. The authorities ascribed yesterday's bombing to a three-man commando of Eta's military wing, believed to have come from France for the operation. The car contained more than 30lb of "Goma 2" - the explosive the armed separatist organization habitually uses.

In a second act of violence yesterday a Spanish policeman was gravely injured in Basauri, near here, when an explosive device went off as he opened his letter box at home.

The indiscriminate killing of children belonging to families of the Civil Guard, who have borne the brunt of the fight against Eta, was a blow for Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, after a series of important police successes. The children killed yesterday were aged four, six and seven.

Celebrating five years in office a few days ago, the Socialist leader confessed terrorist crimes give him his most difficult moments.

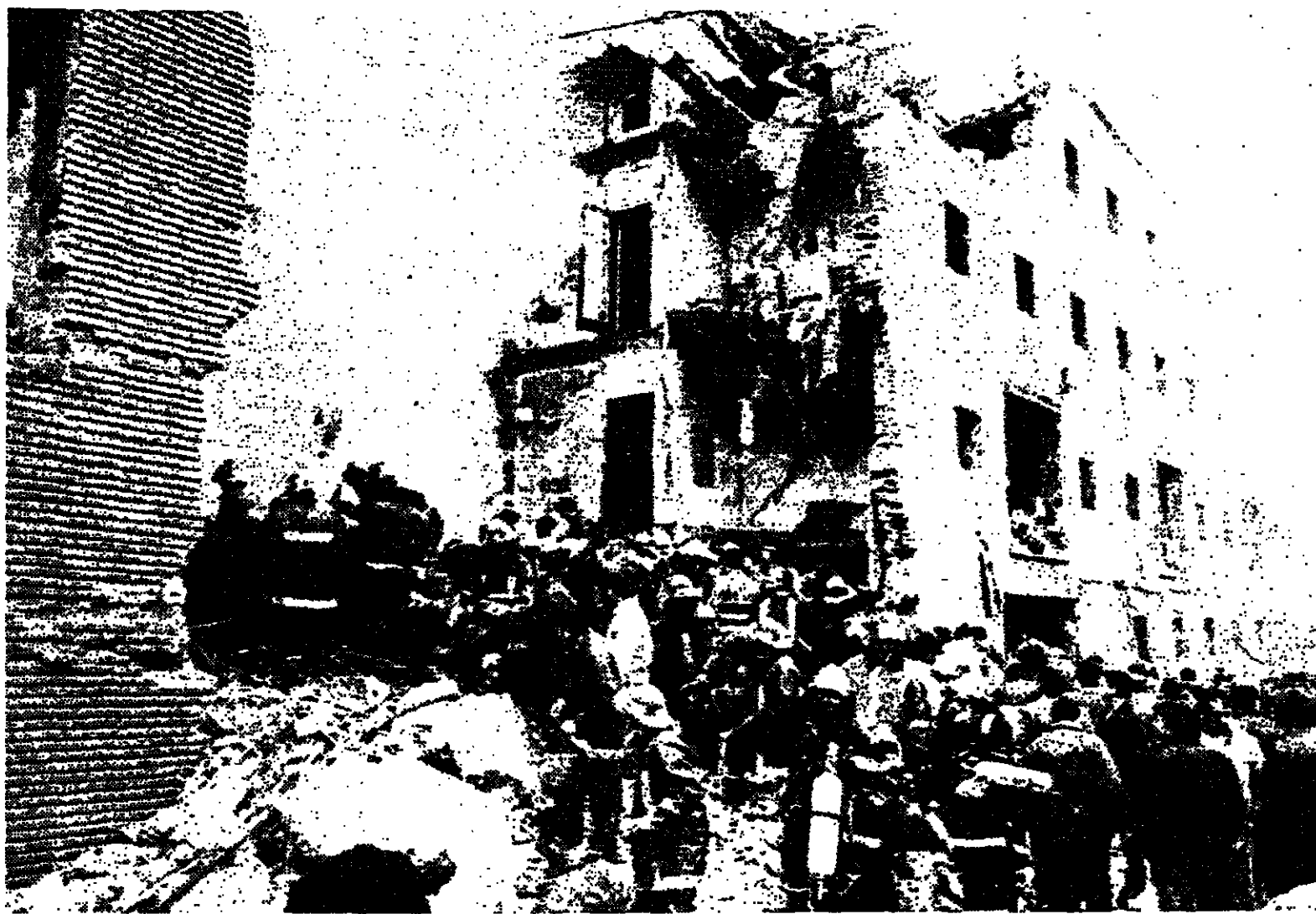
Spain's state radio yesterday broadcast a plea for revenge by a broken-voiced widow of a Civil Guard corporal who died in the attack along with her daughter.

Police associations announced after the tragedy that they would seek to reintroduce the death penalty for terrorists in Spain.

Yesterday's was the second car bomb attack in Zaragoza in less than one year. Last January two occupants of an army bus were blown up.

The attack succeeded in spite of a warning in force in Zaragoza of a possible Eta attack.

Señor José Barrionuevo, the Interior Minister, had been in San Sebastián on Thursday to decorate 52 Civil Guards who participated in the break-up last month of one of Eta's most deadly operational commando units in the Basque country. This success, coming



Firemen and rescue teams sifting the debris of the Civil Guard barracks in Zaragoza yesterday after a car bomb killed 10 people and injured at least 30.

Pretoria cracks down on freed Mbeki

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Mr Govan Mbeki, the veteran African National Congress leader freed on November 5 after 23 years in jail on Robben Island, was yesterday placed under a restriction order at the command of General Hendrik de Witt, the South African Commissioner of Police.

The move against Mr Mbeki, which was not unexpected, has dashed any hopes that the release of the black activist, aged 77, might lead to the early freeing of Nelson Mandela and other leaders of the ANC still in jail. That now looks more distant than ever. Mr Mbeki, under the terms of the restriction order, may not leave the magisterial district of Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape, where he has his home, "without the previously obtained consent of the Commissioner of the South African Police".

He is also prohibited from taking part in any interview with a journalist and from "contributing, preparing, compiling

or transmitting in any manner whatsoever any matter for publication in any publication as defined in the Internal Security Act". General de Witt said that the move against Mr Mbeki, imposed in terms of the State of Emergency regulations, was "necessary to prevent promotion of the revolutionary climate and interference with the prospects of ending the emergency situation".

As a Communist, Mr Mbeki was already classified as a "listed" person, which meant that he could not be quoted in the local press. But before yesterday's order he had been free to move about the country and meet whom he wanted.

In a statement issued on Mr Mbeki's behalf, his lawyer, Miss Priscilla Jara, said at her Johannesburg office that her client was "greatly disappointed and distressed because he was expressly informed that his release (from jail) was unconditional". The Most Rev Desmond

Tutu, Archbishop of Cape Town, accused the Government of making a sham of its decision to free Mr Mbeki by imposing "these outrageous restrictions".

● Television inquiry: Mr Stoffel Botha, the Minister of Home Affairs, announced yesterday that the Government was investigating a documentary on South Africa broadcast by CBS, the American television network.

Mr Botha condemned the CBS film, which was presented by Mr Walter Cronkite, America's most famous television commentator, for its alleged "blatant distortion, exaggeration of negative aspects, misrepresentation of facts, bias and unfair comment". *Children of Apartheid*, a powerful hour-long documentary screened on December 5, featured interviews with Miss Rozanne Botha, the daughter of President Botha, and Miss Zindzi Mandela, the daughter of the ANC leader.

Local polls move Nigeria towards 1992 civilian rule

From Susan MacDonald, Lagos

Nigeria starts its five-year experiment to return the country to civilian rule in 1992 with the holding today of non-political local government elections.

Their organization has been a vast undertaking for President Babangida, the military head of state, and his Armed Forces Ruling Council, who have taken drastic measures to try to weed out the corrupt political practices of the past and set up a new generation of politicians not involved in previous political parties based largely on tribal lines.

To do this, the general has announced the banning from politics of all those who have held political office from the time of independence in 1960 up to the present day - a ban which specifically includes himself and those who are now holding office.

Today's local elections are based on the unusual, and hopefully workable, idea of one ballot for electing local councillors nationwide and a completely separate ballot, with separate candidates, to elect the chairman of each council and local government area.

The run-up to the elections, organized by the National Electoral Commission under the chairmanship of Professor Ene Ama, has been marked by a certain amount of chaos, confusion and incidents of bribery and physical threats to candidates.

Old habits die hard and many Nigerians believe that it is almost impossible to separate a Nigerian from his politics.

However, at a press conference last Thursday, Professor Ama said that several candidates accused of being sponsored by banned politicians or of using threats against other candidates had either been disqualified or had been detained "for various periods" - the first admission that such detentions have occurred.

A legal war is also being waged between candidates who are accused of crimes, banned politicians trying to re-enter the race and the commission. Professor Ama is adamant that those banned remain banned and that the several court cases now pending will not affect today's

elections, despite strong rumours to the contrary.

Those found guilty in cases judged after the elections will be removed from office if they have been elected. Malpractice techniques, he pointed out, would be rendered useless by this "recall" system, which means that the Government can at any time remove local government officials without having to wait for new elections.

There is still no final list of voters, nor indeed of candidates.

This raises the interesting point that there are many more Nigerians in the country than officially estimated. Even allowing for cases of double and triple registration, it may safely be assumed that at least half the population is under 18 years of age and therefore not eligible to vote. This points to

Lagos (AP) - The union of Nigerian university teachers has called on the Government to cancel Mrs Thatcher's visit in January because of her refusal to support sanctions against South Africa.

The union says it would be "clearly inconsistent and contradictory to invite a leader who has demonstrated nothing but love and admiration for apartheid". Africans had been subjected to harsh psychological, economic and social pressures because of British support for Pretoria.

a population not of 105 million, the figure usually given, but nearer 130 million.

General Babangida has announced a census for 1991 - a year before civilian takeover. He hopes that, with a new political order, the census will be seen as a purely statistical process.

His plans are ambitious, but he is working hard towards the 1992 goal by which time he hopes also to have the economy on the right road.

Previous attempts by Nigerian military regimes to hand the country back to civilian government have ended in failure due to corruption.

A first pointer towards President Babangida's chances of success this time will be how today's local elections go and whether or not they can produce a workable local government system.

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SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Barlow bows out

Christmas just won't be Christmas without a card from Eddie Barlow, the professional sporting apologist for apartheid. One year he sent me a card bearing a design called "The White Tower". But the former Test cricketer has resigned from the London-based South African Sports Office after three years of telling us that sporting contacts with South Africa are good, noble and helpful things (and if you believe in giving comfort to apartheid they surely are). The office has been kept open since Barlow's resignation but is now closing because of "lack of finance". Barlow has gone back to Cape Town to take up portfolio management. However, he thinks his three years have been a success: there have been, he says, fewer "vicious and vindictive comments on South African sport". I am sorry to hear this, and will make a New Year resolution to reverse this decline.

Playing ball

This has not been a bad week for President Reagan. He has, I think, you could say, done slightly better than Mike Gating in promoting international understanding. In this same week Reagan has also become directly involved in the US bid for the 1994 World Cup. The US delegation to FIFA, the international football federation showed a video of him meeting FIFA's president, Joao Havelange, in its efforts to influence the organization. The main opposition is Brazil, and Havelange happens to be Brazilian. The third candidate is Morocco, which is a real outside bet. The final decision will be made on June 30.

● Congratulations to Dennis Byatt of Walsingham, in the GM Vauxhall Conference, for scoring the fastest goal of the season, after just eight seconds. What a pity it was an own goal.

Weighed down

My sympathies go to Isaac Newton, a horse (out of a mare called Pomme) that carries more weight than any other in the country. The syndicate that owns him is headed by Nigel Clark, incoming chairman of the Jockey Club's Sunday racing committee, and includes Woodrow Wyatt, chairman of the Tote, and Sir Ian Trethowan, chairman of the Betting Levy Board. If that isn't a collection of heavyweights I don't know what is.

Take a gander

Billy Wilson had two aims when he strode along the Wolverhampton Marathon course last week. First, to raise money to help save the 1988 event, which has been cancelled. Second, to save the cacophony of geese who accompanied him from Christmas slaughter. He is urging the people of Wolverhampton to adopt them "as pets and watch-geese". "We will attack and peck any intruder," he quotes Gandrake, one of the geese, as saying. "We have cuddly down and feather coats and we purr like kittens." I am sure everyone should have a pet goose or two, and I wish Wilson, who once ran the London Marathon as a pantomime horse, every success.

● The Essex Senior League Referees' and Linesmen's Association has started a newsletter. It is called, he, *Blow-Wave*.

Bowled over

Spare a thought for my friend Wes Hall. The former West Indies pace ace is now, of course, Minister of Sport and Tourism in Barbados, and he has had an appalling week. For some reason English newspapers have been full of stuff about Barbados not wanting "British rule" on package tours cluttering up the "millionaires' paradise". This runs directly counter to Hall's often-stated policy of encouraging tourists of all kinds. The whole thing is enough to make anyone yearn for a peaceful life of bowling at 90 miles an hour.

Seconds out

Quote of the week from Ian Clough, secretary of York Rugby League Club, about last weekend's mass brawl: "I am absolutely disgusted at the way the media have gone over the top in reporting the incident. I have been in touch with the Dewsbury timekeeper and he tells me that the actual fight lasted only one minute and 50 seconds. Nowhere near the four and five minutes that has been quoted in some papers."

BARRY FANTONI



Neville's suggestion was Amnesty

Reagan's historic gamble

by Patrick Buchanan

For six years, Ronald Reagan was the most successful of modern presidents. While his reputation is that of absentee landlord, a delegator, that success was due to patience and perseverance. He has always known where to spend his time. He is a purposeful man.

The longest peacetime expansion in US history, for example, which has created 14 million new jobs in five years, was the consequence of two sweeping reforms of the US tax code, the cost of which was hundreds of hours of arduous presidential courtship of a recalcitrant Congress.

The INF agreement is likewise a product of patience and perseverance. Mr Reagan held to his "zero option" when critics were calling it cynical and Utopian; he persevered in deployment of Pershing and cruise missiles in the face of allied backsliding and mass demonstrations. When the Russians walked out of Geneva he was confident that they would be back. Tenacity and toughness gave him the triumph his enemies predicted he could never win.

But, sensing time running out on his presidency, Mr Reagan has seemed of late dissatisfied with what he has achieved. So he has become a plunger, the sort of gambler who, having piled up his chips through patiently following

a meticulous system, suddenly shoves his stack into the centre of the table, to be doubled or lost on the turn of a double card.

The secret weapons sale to Iran to win release of the hostages in Lebanon was a gamble of startling boldness. The sudden decision at Reykjavik to take up Gorbachev's offer, then and there, to eliminate the nuclear weapons upon which Western security has hung for decades was another. Now Mr Reagan is taking the greatest risk of his presidency. He is wagering his place in history — upon his personal reading of Gorbachev's character and intent.

It is an extraordinary gamble; and one recalls that two of his predecessors, Roosevelt at Yalta and Carter at Vienna, made equally large investments in Soviet leaders, only to have history brutally write them down.

With conservative opposition certain to grow, Senate ratification of the INF treaty will require the near unanimous support of the Kennedy Democrats, who have never wished Reagan well. Here, too, the President has made himself something of a hostage to his antagonists. The Senate liberals will extract a price for

supporting INF, and that price will likely come in demands that he further constrain his military budget and accept further restrictions on SDI.

In the warm aftermath of the summit, an atmosphere Mr Reagan helped to create, the MX missile, the B-1 Bomber, the Trident submarine and the President's own SDI all face an uncertain future. What is the sense, critics will argue, of building new strategic weapons systems only to blow them up? If the Soviets have changed, as the President attests, why build new weapons of mass destruction to aim at them? Mr Reagan could end his term with national defence taking no larger a share of the nation's resources than it did under Carter.

Should it come to light that Moscow has cheated on INF — as it did with Salt I, Salt II, the ABM Treaty and the Helsinki Accords — Mr Reagan will spend the balance of his days like the Ancient Mariner, explaining why it was he did what he did.

In a sense, the man who preached Peace through Strength has put all his eggs in the arms control basket, and handed the basket to Gorbachev. What does

he do if Gorbachev, as a condition of carrying forward the Moscow summit, asks for concessions on SDI similar to those that Reagan has already refused?

Although the President has become principal Western character witness for Gorbachev, there is precious little evidence — either in Moscow's treatment of dissidents, or in Soviet behaviour in Angola, Afghanistan or Nicaragua — that the Kremlin has undergone a change of heart commensurate with its change of face.

"What guarantees do we have that the old days will not return?" the Czech writer demanded of Alexander Dubcek in the Prague Spring of 1969; it is not an invalid question today.

Mr Reagan's popularity is already rising in the euphoria of the Washington summit, but he has triggered a war within his own Republican party — between those who share the old Reagan scepticism of Moscow and those who share the new Reagan enthusiasm. That conflict will be visible soon on the Senate floor during INF ratification, later on the convention floor at New Orleans, when the Republicans choose Reagan's successor.

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The author was until earlier this year White House Director of Communications.

The anonymous rebel

At the end of 1696, with the verge of the born journalist that he was, Francis Atterbury launched on its way the pamphlet which began the famous Convocation controversy, and from which so much political division was to flow.

The initial ideas came from Sir Bartholemew Shower, an able Tory lawyer. He discussed his theories with clerical friends in Oxford and they advised that Atterbury should be called in to write up a tract and present the arguments in as vigorous and challenging way as possible.

The theme of *A Letter to a Convocation Man* was ingenious and in Atterbury's hands it was cleverly aimed to fit in with the mood of the ordinary clergy. It rehearsed all the grievances of the Church, not least the growth of heresy and blasphemy, and it demanded as its only remedy a sitting and acting Convocation.

It was not difficult for a writer of Atterbury's incendiary talent to make out a case that the condition of religion in England required an urgent remedy. There was "an open looseness in men's principles and practices, and a settled contempt of religion and the priesthood have prevailed everywhere". It was useless to think that the defence of the Church could be left to individuals or even the church courts in their present weakened condition. The only effective action would be that taken at a national level by Parliament and Convocation.

Time was short. Even loyal subjects and conformable members of an established Church could not lay aside indefinitely their right to assemble as "a spiritual society, of which Jesus Christ is the Head, who has also given out laws and appointed a standing succession of officers under himself for the government of this society". It was at this point that Atterbury introduced the startling novelty of his pamphlet: his assertion that the Reformation had in no way diminished or abridged the right of the clergy of the Church of England to sit and debate the urgent affairs of their Church.

There followed a dazzling survey of the history and nature of an English Convocation. Until this time it had been accepted legal doctrine that the great Act of Submission of the Clergy in 1534 had placed the two Convocations of Canterbury and York entirely under the royal authority; that they could not meet except by the King's initiative and that they could neither debate nor enact canons without his licence and assent. Atterbury, on the contrary, stressed the similarity of Parliament and Convocation. As one was the King's highest temporal court, so the other was the highest spiritual court. In fact, the two were different aspects of one and the same parliamentary occasion.

He pointed out that when a bishop was summoned to take his place in the House of Lords his writ contained a clause, known as the *Præmunientes*, which required him to bring up to Parliament his dean, his archdeacons, and proctors or representatives of his cathedral and diocesan clergy.

This, Atterbury claimed, proved that the lower clergy was an essential part of a Parliament. And it was a complete misunderstanding of the Act of Submission that imagined that a Convocation, attending on Parliament as one always did, was unable to sit, debate and do business without a licence. The Act had only made it necessary that canons should receive the royal assent before they became the law of the land, but this itself made their likeness to statutes even more remarkable. Now, he concluded, there must be a loud and widespread demand for a sitting and acting Convocation. The law prescribed it and urgent business could be delayed no longer.

The pamphlet caused an immediate sensation. Interest was aroused as soon as the first copies came off the press in November 1696 and soon the publisher was steadily reprinting. It was read and discussed in common-rooms and coffee-houses, in episcopal palaces and country, as well as the



The hero of Dr Gareth Bennett's most celebrated book was Dr Francis Atterbury, a leading churchman during the reign of William the Third — when, even more than today, high Tories bemoaned the ill health of Anglicanism. As this extract shows, Atterbury too was a master of the controversial unsigned essay

principal excitement was among the parish clergy. They were delighted, not only by its brevity and wit, but by its vigorous espousal of the cause of doctrinal orthodoxy and a revived discipline. There was intense speculation as to the identity of the anonymous author, and George Smalridge reported from Oxford the reaction at Christ Church.

"The Letter to a Convocation Man", he wrote to a friend, "will be worth your reading. It is much talked of and liked here. We are not able to guess at the author. Some will have it to be our Dean's, but I am certain they are in the wrong. Some have done me the honour to father it on me, but they compliment me too highly who think I was able to write it." The bishops were much less appreciative. They saw only too clearly the political implication.

The noise was so great that early in the New Year Archbishop Tenison decided to read a copy. It gave him an unpleasant shock. Like everyone else, he was unacquainted with the precise historical and legal issues involved, but he was deeply disturbed at the thought of a general agitation for a Convocation. Now he realized that he had an intricate

scholarly debate on his hands, and one with grave consequences for the peace of the Church. When it was reported to him that William Wake, Canon of Christ Church and Rector of St James's, Piccadilly, was an expert in the history of the Convocation, he at once summoned him to Lambeth and pressed him to produce a reply without delay.

The Archbishop wanted a brief and vigorous tract which would meet the Letter on its own terms. But, to his chagrin, Wake insisted on a drawn-out and scholarly preparation and it was not until the very end of 1697 that he produced his book. Tenison read it, grumbled over its length and tedious style, but at last yielded and gave permission for it to be published with a formal dedication to himself and the Archbishop of York.

Wake's book, *The Authority of Christian Princes over their Ecclesiastical Synods*, was a terrible mistake. Even the author's friends and well-wishers started with alarm. Almost a quarter of the work was given over to proving that from the age of Constantine Christian rulers had possessed an absolute control over church synods. Indeed this constant stress on

a total subordination of Church to State caused immense resentment among the ordinary clergy and tended to vitiate everything else which Wake put forward.

He staggered before the anger which his book created. By his recklessness he had succeeded in giving many ordinary priests the impression that the only reply to their pleas for action to preserve the Church was an arrogant declaration of the royal power to silence troublemakers, and that issued with the imprimatur of both Archbishops. Not least his asperities had aroused Atterbury's well-known pugnacity, and the latter determined to devote every minute he could spare to working on the materials of English parliamentary history. It was only after two full years' study and research that March 1700 he published, anonymously, *The Rights, Powers and Privileges of an English Convocation*.

And yet, in spite of the labour, rather than a work of genuine scholarship, it was a superb piece of journalism. Wake was represented as a literary hack who wrote to the order of the Archbishop, who insulted the intelligence and sense of responsibility of the clergy, and who was undermining the "good old constitution" in Church and State.

Atterbury knew quite well that too much detailed historical evidence was liable to bore and tire his readers, and so it was necessary to write vividly and pungently. As he later explained it, if he had treated Wake "barbarously, 'twas to inspire a dull and dry subject". The preface sounded a clarion call for the defence of the Church against arbitrary and absolutist notions. Englishmen lived under an ancient constitution, which gave them rights and liberties, and nowhere were their historic privileges more valuable than in Parliament and Convocation. How came it then that Wake was digging about in the history of late Imperial Rome when churchmen were discussing the terms of the legal establishment of the Church of England?

It was a *tour de force*: not the less so for its staggering effrontery. The very style of the writing, with its brilliant paradoxes, telling wit, and smooth plausibility, made it clear who the author was. As Bishop Burnet put it: the book had "great acrimony of style and a strain of insolence that was peculiar to one Atterbury". But, in spite of all criticism, the work sold in great numbers, and soon the publisher was calling for a new edition.

It was the main topic of conversation wherever clergy met, and Wake obviously had much to endure in London clerical society. "I need not tell you," he wrote on his return from a residence at Christ Church, "the world here is as full of Mr Atterbury's book as I left it at Oxford... Some men, I am told, wonder at my impudence that I have not yet hanged myself." The experience made the iron enter into his soul, and he determined on a reply of monumental proportions. Of his adversary's arguments verily not one stone should be left upon another. In vain the Archbishop pleaded for something lively, readable and above all quickly produced. Wake ignored all advice and retired grimly to his study.

When in 1703 his vast folio *The State of the Church and Clergy of England* appeared it was an irrefutable answer to Atterbury's case. The trouble was that only experts could bring themselves to read it, and that by then the immediate political importance of the dispute was over. In the meantime the field was left to his opponent who luxuriated in the acclaim of a popular hero. It served no purpose for Atterbury to make any further pretence about his authorship, and now he resolved that a new enlarged edition of his book should be issued; and that this time it should not only bear his name but be dedicated, albeit without permission, to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

This is edited extract from *Gareth Bennett's The Tory Crisis in Church and State 1688-1730*, published by Oxford University Press, 1975.



Archbishop Tenison was the target of Atterbury's pamphlet seeking a bigger role for the junior clergy; Robert Muncie that of Dr Bennett's charge, in the preface to the new edition of *Crockford's*, of indecision and lack of leadership



Robert Kilroy-Silk

All heart and no head

The future in the last couple of weeks over the case of David Barber, the Birmingham baby who died after waiting six weeks for open heart surgery, provided yet another excuse for a display of that peculiarly British vice of political hypocrisy. It was indulged in to the full.

The fact that the West Midlands hospital could not operate at an early stage because of a shortage of intensive care nurses is regrettable, to say the least. That a child should have to wait so long for a life-saving operation is inexcusable. It is an indictment of a society that possesses the skills, the technology and the financial resources to carry out what has now become a routine operation, but which chooses to spend its money elsewhere. In this respect we are all to blame.

The Opposition is justified in making this point. Indeed it has a constitutional duty to do so. Its job is to present a reasoned and sustained critique of the government's policies and of the meagre resources allocated for this and other services. It should be initiating a debate, opening up a dialogue, on the health service. It should be seeking to inform and lead public opinion. Hard choices have to be made. Labour should be helping to make them and to ensure that the decisions are wise and fair.

The fact that Labour is a minority party in the country and in Parliament does not mean it is without influence or power. Far from it. It can still mould public opinion and, through it, exert leverage on the government, which is what a sensible and constructive opposition party should be doing. In the process it should also, incidentally, be building support for its own policies and values. By these means Labour would be making a positive contribution to an important debate, inspiring its own supporters, attracting others and, not least, presenting itself as a credible alternative government.

Instead it has resorted to personal abuse of the worst kind. Labour MPs asserted that if baby Barber were to die as a result of cancelled operations, "it would be murder". They suggested that Mrs Thatcher was more interested in attending the funeral than ensuring an immediate operation and asked how she, as a mother, could be happy with a government that created the conditions in which the parents of a small baby had unsuccessfully applied six times for a life-saving operation. When Antony Newton, the Minister for Health, attempted to explain the shortage of intensive care-nurses, Labour set up an ugly barrage of "Cuts", "Cuts", "Cuts".

The tone and the language were unattractive. Yet there was real anger, and no one would suggest that it should not be expressed. Nor is there a better place for it to be articulated than in the House of

Commons. The truth is, however, that the same anger, the same conviction, the same fearless attempt to expose inefficiency or ineptitude was not employed when precisely the same conditions existed throughout the lifetime of the last Labour government.

My maiden speech in 1974 was largely devoted to the long waiting time for open-heart surgery being endured by children in the north-west. A year later, despite various promises by Labour ministers, the situation was not only no better but was actually worse. At one time in the north-west 84 children were awaiting major open-heart surgery and another 185 were waiting for essential exploratory tests prior to major surgery. And while they waited children experienced a deterioration in their condition that left them with permanent handicaps. Many died, unnecessarily. As a result, parents all over the north-west and elsewhere resorted to charity to send their children to France, the United States and to private hospitals in Britain.

All this was early in the life of the Labour government. The Tories could still be blamed for the problem. Four years later, in 1979, they could not, and matters were not much better then — certainly not in respect of adults. On Merseyside 581 adults awaited investigatory heart operations and 173 open-heart surgery. Fourteen had been waiting for over two years, 210 had been on the waiting list for two years and 125 had been waiting for between one and two years. The position in the West Midlands was almost as bad, with 637 patients on the list, some having been on it for seven years. Patients in both areas were said by consultants to have died while on the waiting list — 28 of them on Merseyside.

I don't remember any of my colleagues accusing Labour ministers of murder, or of wanting to attend funerals. Nor did I hear the accusation of "cuts" from the other side. And I did not see articles day after day in the *Daily Mirror* referring to a "cold-hearted" Harold Wilson or James Callaghan as they do now about Mrs Thatcher.

There are difficulties in financing the NHS cannot be doubted. But the fact is that the present government is spending more on health care than any of its Labour predecessors. That is not to suggest that it is spending enough. We still devote proportionally less of our GNP to health than most other OECD countries, and far less than Sweden and the Netherlands. That is the real issue that should be addressed by the Labour Party. But that requires careful thought. It's easier to make political points and to scream "murder".

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The author was a Merseyside Labour MP, 1974-86.

Peter Brimelow

This souped-up superpower

New York. Rubbish about Russians was being purveyed on a truly mind-boggling scale here this week. Those of us who remain cynical about Moscow have been venturing outdoors only in disguise, and confining our dissent to such covert gestures as not writing about the Washington summit in this column.

Americans are a notoriously sentimental people, and excesses of this sort are a regular feature of their public life. But they have other national traits too, as a few of the reports from Washington also illustrated. These are worth remembering, not just in the context of US-Soviet relations but in the aftermath of the stock market crash when American economic leadership is being questioned.

The Russians did not keep to schedule in Washington. The top Soviet trade official never showed up at a luncheon in his honour hosted by the Secretary of Commerce, C. William Verity. A meeting at the National Academy of Sciences, with guests flown in from around the country, was reset repeatedly. Mr Gorbachev's audience with assorted academics and writers found its way on to television although supposedly barred to the press, but no translation was available. Mrs Gorbachev's inimitable swept past moments where Soviet and American officials and media types were assembled to greet her.

Such chaos is anathema to Americans. Despite their apparent informality, they are naturally self-organizing to a remarkably high degree. Their political events in particular are masterpieces of precise choreography. On the whole, Americans are well-organized personally — when I first arrived in California as a student of business administration I was appalled by the neat lecture notes my classmates would take, hour after incredibly boring hour. But the trait is also visible on the collective level. Although President Herbert Hoover in a famous phrase praised "the American system of rugged individualism", many of the characteristic artefacts of American culture are in reality the product of disciplined group endeavour: mass production, the news magazine, the hamburger chain, even the slick situation comedy on TV. A concomitant of organization

is the work required to maintain it. And, again despite their view of themselves as bean-counting, television-watching "couch potatoes", Americans in general are intensely industrious. Wall Street, currently the object of much moralizing because of their alleged greed, routinely schedule breakfast meetings at seven o'clock in the morning. And that's 4 am in California, where much of the investment industry keeps New York time.

This American consensus is so pervasive that even poets succumb. W.H. Auden used to say that he never really worked until he emigrated to America at the start of the Second World War. As always, the origin of these national traits is difficult to elucidate. Perhaps it's due to a history of ample economic opportunity, emphasized recently by President Reagan's reduction in marginal tax rates on personal income. Perhaps it's due to the powerful, if rarely discussed, German influence on America as a result of massive immigration — more Americans can trace their ancestry to Germany than to England.

But whatever the cause, the evidence is that cultural attitudes towards work and organization are extremely tenacious. They act powerfully to determine economic results regardless of institutional arrangements — the East Germans, after all, have proved able to make even communism come close to functioning. In other words, the depth of human capital underlying America's geopolitical position is formidable.

Does this have anything to do with the summit? Maybe so, whimsically.

It suggests that, despite superficial similarities in their content-conquering pioneering pasts, the Americans and the Russians are much more different even than they appear. No one has ever accused the Russians of liking work. There may be no necessity for two such different temperaments to clash, although efficiency never made the Germans popular in Europe. The real problem, however, is that as long as the American system is successful, merely by generating economic growth it must inevitably destabilize, and alarm its less effective co-begemonist.

The author is a senior editor of *Forbes Magazine*.

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no head

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AFTER KIMBERLEY

Mr Louis Blom-Cooper's report on the death of Kimberley Carlile, which was published yesterday, contains that note of primitive anger which should accompany any examination of the murder of a child. For, whatever journalists and others may insinuate, she was not killed by her social worker, Mr Martin Ruddock: she was killed by a brute, abetted by a woman whose sense of evil had atrophied.

Despite the cliché of the title, *A Child in Mind*, a touch of glimmer, and praise for Mr Ruddock's verbal expertise which sits uneasily against the charges of professional incompetence, Mr Blom-Cooper's report is a model of its kind — just as his report on the Jasmine Beckford case in Brent was two years ago. His recommendations distil contemporary wisdom as to how the practice of social work can be improved in the late 1980s.

He proposes a new set of magistrates' orders to be available to the suspicious social worker. He directs health authorities to concern themselves specifically with child welfare, rather than — as some have been inclined to do — with the family as a whole, and he recommends better training of social workers in the law as it affects their work.

Mr Blom-Cooper properly directs his fire against his fellow lawyers. Why did it take the Director of Public Prosecutions a year to prepare the case against Kimberley's killer and his accomplice, he asks. Such delay should never happen again. His recommendations to Greenwich Council have mostly been acted upon already. But, in addition, there may also be a case for legislation and national action by the Department of Health and Social Security.

But the report must be read also in a political dimension. Its recommendations are expensive: they require additional money to be provided for the National Health Service. Some people will argue from it that there should be a general increase in resources provided to councils to enable them to pay for more social work training and higher staffing levels. Yet before any more money is willed, some fundamental questions need to be answered.

The first relates to the public acceptance of social workers as professionals. If the mark of a profession — which social work aspires to be —

is the maturity to take responsibility for mistakes of judgement, then social workers seem now to have come of age. Mr Martin Ruddock, Kimberley's social worker, has paid the price. The penalty is justified if two things follow.

One is better assessment of social work performance (and all that means for training and supervision). The other is better public acceptance that the judgement of properly trained social workers can then be trusted. The answer is not for their decisions to be subject to continual second-guessing. If the public is not willing to accept that, then social work's problems of recruitment will become worse than they already are and the future will be bleak.

The second question concerns the purpose of social work. Is a large part of that purpose now to protect people, who are deprived in every way, against themselves and the consequences of their actions? If so, social workers should recognize that fact. They should accept, however reluctantly, the new powers of statutory inspection and control of their clients which are recommended by Mr Blom-Cooper's report — and use them.

The adults who killed Kimberley Carlile, like those involved in the death of Jasmine Beckford, live in a world of short-lived relationships, unsteady employment and dependence on the social services. Professional social workers have tended to resist the view that their clients have a greater propensity than their more fortunate counterparts to commit crime and offend against civilized standards. At the same time, they have been inclined to believe that social work can treat the "whole family" and, when temporary troubles are past, reintegrate its members into the mainstream of steady work and self-sufficiency.

Unfortunately there are cases where this is not possible; where the child or children are at risk from other members of their family; where the interests of parent and child, the family and the individual, are at odds. Unless social workers show more acceptance of these unpalatable facts, even the new statutory powers so forcefully advocated by Mr Blom-Cooper yesterday will not ensure that the case of Kimberley Carlile is the last of its kind.

WRONG RATES FOR RACEHORSES

Five law lords this week unanimously dismissed the appeal by Whitsbury Farm and Stud in Hampshire seeking continuation of its exemption from rates, which the thoroughbred breeding industry at large had enjoyed until 1981. Whitsbury, in a test case on behalf of 400 stud farms in England and Wales, was seeking the benefit of agricultural derating for premises used for the breeding and rearing of thoroughbreds. Local authorities who had been delaying action until the law lords' verdict will now be able to implement their demands, £8,000 in the case of Whitsbury.

The essence of the ruling is that land grazed by cattle and sheep for the production of meat and wool is deratable; so too is land grazed by horses. Agriculture and breeding diverge, however, in the use of the buildings. In breeding the buildings (stable blocks, covering yards, and hay and feed stores) are regarded as being for the principal part of the business; the land is considered secondary. In agriculture the opposite is the case.

This point will now be pursued by the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association and its considerable parliamentary lobby. Mr Charles Morrison, the Conservative Member of Parliament for Devizes and chairman of the All-Party Racing and Thoroughbred Breeding Industry Committee, appears to have taken a positive attitude to the law lords' decision, saying that "we have established just what the law is, and we can now make representation to the Department of the Environment". Its spokesmen have a fight on their hands.

A typical case might be that of Mr John Williams at the Aramstone Stud in Herefordshire, who has 100 cattle, 300 ewes and four brood mares on his 240 acres. The lambs, cattle,

yearlings and foals all end up in one market or other. As far as he is concerned, the foals and yearlings are as much part of the farm as the cattle and sheep. But because of the foals and yearlings he is financially penalized.

It is easy to understand how countrymen like him resent the dividing of animals on the basis of the different markets for which they are produced. The state of the law is certainly a discouragement, particularly to small breeders, to produce horses. It is not a highly profitable business except in occasional well publicized cases. The threat to the continued economic activity is clear.

There are those who say that there is over-production of mediocre horses in the breeding industry and that this decision will simply accentuate market forces. That is a harsh answer to the smaller breeders. Quite apart from their pleasure in producing a horse that might, just might, win races, there is an increasing world demand for racehorses, not necessarily of the very top class.

Breeding racehorses has much to commend it. It is a labour-intensive industry. It is environmentally sound (it uses no toxic sprays and barbed wire to taint the countryside), and it is a good example of the alternative use of agricultural land which the Government has been urging. It is also a key part of the massively productive British betting and racing industry as a whole.

Breeding and rearing horses to the point of sale is a traditional agricultural operation. It is only after then that they can become a possible luxury. The judiciary has had its say. Next it is for the Government to examine how to clear up an untidy corner of the traditions of rural England.

TO RAISA WITH LOVE

Mrs Gorbachov returns to Moscow this weekend with a present from Mr Kenneth Baker in her suitcase. After their visit to the school children of Brize Norton, the Education Secretary gave the Soviet first lady a first edition of Charles Dickens's novel, *Little Dorrit*.

Since Mr Baker is an expert book collector, it is likely to be a fine copy. (In bookseller's language, that means it is very good. If an antiquarian bookseller says a book is very good it is, in fact, fairly bad. A good communist will, of course, have no difficulty with such use of language.)

Since the gift came personally from so knowledgeable a source, Mrs Gorbachov ought to be very pleased with it. While worth perhaps only some £200, it came during a trip on which she had been encouraged to make less use of her American Express Card than she might have liked. She may even read it.

Wherein lies the subject of dispute. Is *Little Dorrit*, with its potent imagery of exploitation, wrongful imprisonment, and bureaucratic darkness, a suitable memento of modern Britain. Does it not reinforce the prejudices which every Russian schoolchild has already been taught about the capitalist system? Is not the reading of Dickens widely encouraged throughout the Soviet Union for just that reason?

Perhaps so. But perhaps Mr Baker, with his famous political subtlety, is trying to tell Mrs Gorbachov something. There is no novel — not even within the great Russian corpus — which better uses the image of incarceration to symbolize the chaining of the creative spirit, or more devastatingly describes the impact of a dead public bureaucracy upon the lives of ordinary citizens. The Marshalsea Prison may focus her eyes upon the real world around her

in a way that *The Gulag Archipelago* could not.

It is said that some of Mr Baker's colleagues would have preferred a more positive offering — perhaps a *Thomas Hobbes*, or Walter Scott, even some *Thomas Hobbes*, whom she is alleged to consider one of her favourite English authors. In reply, he might then have to try a different defence.

He could say that he was drawing his friend Raisa's attention to what happens when Russian ambitions to expand at others' expense become too much for its enemies to bear. Among the less remembered facts about Dickens's 11th novel is that it was the big literary hit of the war in the Crimea.

From the winter of 1855, while Britons were queuing to buy their monthly instalments of *Little Dorrit*, Russians were counting a death toll of almost half a million men in the mudpools of Sebastopol. The bureaucratic horrors of the Circumlocution Office were created with the military firmly in mind. Mr Baker could say that his was not a "wet" gift to Mrs Gorbachov but a subtly "dry" one — like giving a German politician a set of Vera Lynn records.

Perhaps Mr Baker gave no thought to the choice at all — and merely selected from his own collection a book of which he chanced to own two copies. But, if he did think about it, we would have preferred the government hospitality budget to have stumped up for a fine edition of *Hobbes*. As was taught at Mr Baker's school (though probably not Mrs Gorbachov's) the author of *Leviathan* sought to understand the nature of state power by looking at what would happen if a state fell into collapse. "Life", he wrote would then be "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short".

Perestroika-lovers, beware.

Morris gallery implications

From Lord Elwyn-Jones, CH
Sir, Underlying the threat to the William Morris Gallery described in Mr Nigel Andrew's timely and informative article (December 5) is the problem of collections of national importance sustained by a local authority of moderate size. For close on 40 years the London Borough of Waltham Forest Council and their predecessor have maintained and developed this unique museum, thus earning the gratitude of people interested in William Morris all over the world.

To secure the future of the gallery three things are necessary. Firstly, the mustering of the coalition of interests (to use Lord Briggs's useful phrase in the letter you published on November 26) in its support; secondly, the recognition by the local authority that the issue is of more than local concern and that no decision should be taken now that might jeopardise the construction of a firm financial basis for the gallery; and thirdly, the Government's acceptance that the national importance of the gallery's collections justifies a measure of direct and regular assistance from central funds.

Yours faithfully,
ELWYN-JONES,
House of Lords,
December 7.

From Mr Norman Tebbit, CH,
MP for Chingford (Conservative)
Sir, Support for the William Morris Gallery has been on a non-partisan basis for many years. Indeed a major refurbishment was carried out during the time of the last Conservative administration.

Nigel Andrew says that Waltham Forest Council "has been forced to cut its libraries and museums budget by about 20 per cent". That is not so. There will be no shortage of money at the town hall, even when rate-capping takes effect next year, since it will allow expenditure comfortably above the level of the previous Conservative administration's even after allowing for inflation.

In one of those ironies of politics the Labour council is choosing to cut spending on what is a splendid memorial to the work of an authentic socialist such as William Morris in order to fund its bizarre schemes to attack the police and promote the causes of extreme minorities which I venture to think would not have appealed to Mr Morris.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN TEBBIT,
House of Commons,
December 7.

'Crockford's' preface

From Sir Anthony Grant, MP
for Cambridgeshire South West (Conservative)
Sir, You report today (December 7) that the Very Reverend Eric Heaton, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, called "for all editions of Crockford's" to be withdrawn immediately and reissued without the preface.

Is this the "comprehensive liberalism" of the Church of England to which the Dean referred on the same day?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY GRANT,
House of Commons,
December 7.

How talent shows

From Mr G. M. Stothard
Sir, The reason why schools and education authorities are reluctant to produce "league tables" of examination results (Spectrum, November 23) is simple. They know that pupils' success is a result of a number of factors: natural ability, motivation, parental encouragement, as well as good teaching. The attempt by ILEA to give weighting to factors external to the school is an attempt to be fair. Results, by themselves, are not a just reflection of a school's educational provision.

Your Spectrum columnist is not so naive as to be unaware of this. What he must be saying, therefore, is that parents are not interested in being fair to schools. We want our children to be educated with the brightest and best in schools geared to examination success, where children of low ability are not welcome. League tables will give us this information at a glance.

Now that we are promised this information about pupils at ages from seven upwards parents will have an admittedly unfair consumer's guide which will tell us exactly what we want to know. The only problem will be how to prevent the wrong people using the league tables. Has Spectrum any suggestions?

Yours faithfully,
G. M. STOTHARD, Headmaster,
John F. Kennedy School,
Holly Bush Lane,
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire,
November 24.

At full stretch

From Mr Alec Bristow
Sir, You report (December 4) the leader of the Union of Communication Workers as asking, "Who else works six days a week, gets up early in the morning or works late through the night, for a minimum of 43 hours?"

The answer is any mother of young children — with the six days a week changed to seven.

Yours sincerely,
ALEC BRISTOW,
The Grange,
Thwaite,
Nr Eye, Suffolk,
December 4.

Prospect of common arms market

From Mr James Elles, MEP for Oxford and Buckinghamshire (European Democrat (Conservative))
Sir, Your leader on "Defending Europe" (December 9) underlines the increasing necessity for the European pillar of the Western Alliance to bear a greater weight than before. Nowhere more so will this need arise over the next decade than in the field of conventional weapons.

With the triple factors of rising armament costs, the probability that there will now be some adjustment to the US presence in Europe and the general reluctance of European governments to commit more funds for arms, how are we in Europe to obtain better value for money?

A recent report commissioned by the Intergovernmental European Progress Group (IEPG) — where Nato members discuss arms collaboration — determined that the manufacture of European military equipment can be made more compatible by subjecting it to normal market forces.

The time has now arrived for the 12 countries of the European Community to establish a common arms market. They should now consider the following steps:

First, they must ensure that there are regular contacts between IEPG research projects and EC research and development programmes to avoid duplication through the considerable overlap between the two.

Second, they should create a military equivalent of Esprit, the EC's highly successful scientific programme for research and technology and financed on an equal basis between the EC and industry.

Third, as suggested by the Dutch defence minister, Mr Van Eckelen, current President of the WEU (Western European Union) last weekend, public procurement in the arms industry must be opened up in the European Community. Through this he indicated that article 223 of the Rome Treaty, exempting a long list of military and semi-military equipment from the Treaty's free trade priorities, must be revised.

It will be said that there is no political willingness for these steps to be taken. And yet, this is the only path forward for European countries to take if they are genuinely serious in cutting back on the wasteful amount of duplication which has littered our continent over the past 30 years.

Let us get to work.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES ELLES,
Conservative Centre,
Church Street,
Aylesham, Buckinghamshire,
December 10.

Unfinished business

From Mr John G. Moisson
Sir, The Soviet leader's stop-over here on his way to Washington may well prove helpful to the business of politics. For our part, in the business of trade, we are also experiencing significant changes.

For 35 years we have been holding meetings at regular intervals, always at our invitation, with officials in the Soviet ministries of construction and of agriculture, with a view to transferring British technology for turning agro-waste (straw, grass, etc.) into construction panels. Meetings have always been cordial, the Soviet officials most interested and eager to do business, but we have always ended up by falling between those two giant organisations. Both need to be involved, but in the past we have had no practical channel of communication between the two ministries.

Something really must now be stirring in the USSR. For the first time Soviet officials are coming to us and there is real optimism that something can now be done.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MOISSON, Chairman,
Stratim International Ltd,
Creeping Road,
Stowmarket, Suffolk,
December 4.

Private power

From Mr M. J. Platts
Sir, I find the suggestion that the Department of Energy may require private producers of electricity to contribute to the financing of nuclear power plants (report, November 23) hard to reconcile to the idea of establishing a freely competitive market for energy supply.

Those of us who have been involved in the introduction of wind energy into America (currently about 1 per cent of California's generating capacity) have seen the rapid rise of new technologies, producing electricity at a much lower cost per kW-hr than nuclear plants. There, the large, established electricity utilities have tried to squash these competing producers and a fierce legal battle is raging, which thankfully looks to be going in favour of sustaining genuine open competition.

In the UK studies suggest that Cornwall could meet its future electricity needs very cost-effectively with a multiplicity of

Homeless in the countryside

From Mr Kimball Pollitt
Sir, I write from the rural Cotswolds where there are many locals, including politicians, who believe that homelessness is a matter chiefly confined to the urban conurbations. Not so. Homelessness is as acute in rural areas as anywhere in the UK.

A year ago in Cirencester a group was started to raise funds to house the single homeless. Despite its being the Year of the Homeless and exhaustive correspondence no funds have been forthcoming from Government sources or charities. With a considerable local effort our first house was purchased last month, but we still have a mortgage to meet.

We have, on average, one single homeless person a week, aged between 16 and 25 (a category generally outside the jurisdiction of a local authority) seeking urgent help. I am sorry for them. We have to turn them back into the night. It does appear that our caring starts overseas.

Yours faithfully,
KIMBALL POLLITT,
Yew Tree Cottage,
Ampley St Mary,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire,
December 7.

Invited India, Pakistan, Israel, Libya and South Africa to such a meeting, or even France, Britain and Australia?

When scientists tell us that the bombs dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima to end the Second World War would now be described as of "limited nuclear capability" one, perhaps, of today's missiles would be enough to wreak vastly more destruction.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. E. MURRAY,
62 Tonbridge Road,
Maidstone, Kent,
December 3.

From Mr Chaim Berman

Sir, Awkward refusals are generally dealt with by the KGB in the privacy of a labour camp or jail. Last Sunday they were attacked in the open (report, December 7). Is that what they mean by glasnost?

Yours faithfully,
CHAIM BERMAN,
18 Hill Rise, NW11,
December 7.

From Mr M. F. Cullis

Sir, While endorsing the thrust of your leading article, "Signpost to the summit" (December 7), may I point out that it was not quite accurate to describe the INF treaty as the "first disarmament agreement"?

That claim belongs, in fact, to the international convention on the banning of biological weapons concluded in 1972, incidentally, on British initiative.

Yours etc,
MICHAEL F. CULLIS,
County End,
Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire,
December 8.

small producers, without importing any nuclear-generated electricity into the peninsula. Why should they — or anybody else — be forced to pay a higher price than they need for electricity from a source they don't want?

A large amount of new electricity capacity is needed in the UK in the next two decades. In the last five years America has demonstrated that this can be produced far quicker, far more cost-effectively, with less public financial risk and more public responsiveness, by a diverse network of entrepreneurs introducing new, cost-effective technologies. Given a genuine market for electrical energy, the same pattern is likely to develop in Britain.

Does this present Conservative Government intend to deny the UK that free market opportunity?

Yours faithfully,
M. J. PLATTS,
Managing Director,
Composite Technology Limited,
Carlton House,
Ringwood Road, Woodlands,
Southampton, Hampshire,
December 1.

Of the catches the authorities seem convinced these traditional fishers are making.

One possible solution may be to instigate research by an independent body to establish the true results of these specialized fishing activities. Clearly, these traditional licence-holders need support from those more experienced in handling officialdom. It will not be enough to relegate them to a museum display, however emotive.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. KENNEDY, Curator,
Pembroke Museums,
The Castle,
Haverfordwest, Dyfed,
December 8.

Not wanted on voyage

From Mr James Page-Roberts
Sir, Stationary for a short time in a traffic jam between exits three and two on the M3, I spied the following objects dispersed on the central reservation: three hub caps, a wheel rim embellishment, a sheared-off lump of timber, five assorted pieces of tyre rubber, a section of an inner tube and what appeared to be a popular form of Aids protection.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES PAGE-ROBERTS,
Skamore House, Tangley,
Andover, Hampshire,
November 26.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 12 1972

The writer's argument for abolishing income tax (introduced as a temporary measure by Pitt in 1799) was not just wishful thinking in 1874 Gladstone and Disraeli favoured ending it. The Reverend George Trevelyan (1809-88) was a missionary, theologian, historian and a powerful orator

ANTI-INCOME TAX LEAGUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir:—

Our conclusion is that the Income-tax is unjust in principle; and that we rest, not only on the now admitted impossibility of equalizing its incidence, but on the *a priori* argument that under no circumstances is it a true measure of liability to taxation. This argument does not at all affect the question between direct and indirect taxation. Granting (what might be open to question) that the Income-tax is the only form of direct taxation in England, in France, where there is no Income-tax, the direct taxation bears a much greater proportion to the indirect than among us. What we say is that, whether by direct or indirect taxation, the subject ought to be assessed according to his means of subsistence and enjoyment; and these means are determined, not by what he may happen to receive, but by what he has to spend. Every one allows that all legal outgoings must be deducted before the income is taxed. But in a complex society like ours the law is not, and ought not to be, the sole measure of the claims on a man's income. Prudence, justice, charity, and religion assert their claims also, and it would be a sad day for the country when sciences such as taught to keep step with the law, and account no claims valid but such as can be enforced before a judicial tribunal. Humanity, society, and conscience affirm that a man's income is not his own, to spend as he likes, without regard to the claims of others. The Income-tax says it is, and in so saying offends against the first principles of good government. It stamps itself as a wicked tax — a tax for the discouragement of prudence, charity and religion. Yet here in its wickedness it cannot be consistent; it admits of one claim beyond the law, and only one: the duty of assuring one's life. This may be a very proper and prudent thing to do; but it is not the only or the most imperative claim on every man's income. . . . The Income-tax . . . undertakes to determine all such claims for every one, and determine them by the lowest and most sordid standard. Our movement is a protest against this standard; we desire to preserve that high sense of the charities of life to which this country owes so much of its greatness. We insist that every one should pay to the State, not on what he may happen to receive, but on that which he can honestly and with a safe conscience assure to his own purposes.

Now, of what a man has to spend the only practical measure is his actual expenditure. A free State cannot look into the conscience of the subject; it has no greater right to prying into his farms or porphy in his ledger. What he brings forth and spends is his available income, and on that every one ought to be taxed, without respect of persons. This is the rule of all other taxes, and because of its contravening this rule the Income-tax is unsound in principle, inequitable in its incidence, offensive in its collection, injurious to public and private morality, and ought to be repealed. It is no business of ours to suggest a substitute. I remain, Sir, your faithful servant.

GEORGE TREVOR,
Beeford Rectory, Dec. 10.

John Rogers

By Bryan Appleyard

which business was regarded as a negative activity. People think in a rather confused way. I was never against business but I was against certain ways of carrying on business. The main thing is people's attitudes to authority. I always felt that authority was not necessarily a bad thing. I now think it can be an absolutely excellent thing. I'm interested in making fun of authority that's exercised badly."

Cleese may be the creator of the dead parrot sketch and of Basil Fawlty, but he is also the son of a Weston-Super-Mare insurance salesman. It is a background that left him with plenty of petit-bourgeois prudence. He has discovered that it also left him inhibited when it came to looking after Number One. His father could never do anything simply for his own enjoyment. He would take his son to football matches but never go on his own. It was a characteristic which Cleese was to discover, on self-analysis, that he had inherited.

"I think I was one of those people who didn't have the self-confidence to know deep down what it was that I wanted to do. So I did things in order to be approved by other people. There's a lot of us around. But now I'm engaged in a kind of struggle to find out what it is I really want to do in the last 20 years and that's very good. It's a very nice place to be. I've solved most of the financial problems, so I can write a book about anything that interests me even if nobody gives me a commission."

His work practices, however, mean that Cleese cannot lightly commit himself to anything. He is frighteningly

conscious. Each episode of *Fawlty Towers* took four months to write, and went through 10 drafts. He would tell his friends during the process that the first version was good enough for a Thames Television sitcom, the second for Granada, and so on, until he finally arrived at something good enough for BBC2 – and better than any sitcom. And it was only a few months ago that he said to fellow comic and writer Stephen Fry that he considered that, on the whole, he had finally mastered the form of the sketch. Fry, still relatively new to the game, was speechless.

The latest project is a feature film, for release next year, entitled *A Fish Called Wanda*. It involves, among others, Maria Aitken and

A high-contrast, black and white portrait of a man with dark hair, wearing a suit jacket and a white shirt. He is resting his chin on his hands, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The image has a grainy, high-contrast quality.

John Cleese: "I didn't know deep down what it was that I wanted to do. There's a lot of us around"

former Python Michael Palin. Cleeve plays a barrister defending a gang of jewel thieves. The script went through only four drafts — three written at Champney's Health Farm at Tring and one at Holland Park. In addition, Cleeve frequently appears in television commercials — at one point the industry considered an award for The Best Use of John Cleeve. In Britain he is selective about these jobs; less so in Australia.

ognizable as kids who have learnt so-called grown-up ways of behaving."

Cleese still visits a psychiatrist occasionally, though it does not seem to be too serious. At one recent session they had a good laugh, and as he was leaving the shrink said, "Oh, by the way, how are you?" But he sticks to the techniques he has learnt. He used to suffer from what he took to be a cold, from present mild flu. Later he realized he was actually making himself ill in order to rest. Now, if he feels a sore throat coming on, he simply lies down for three hours. In fact he has raised reising to a fine art. He plans his diary months ahead, leaving large R and R — rest and recreation — gaps. Agents and friends know these to be inviolable.

Yet, amidst all this formidable organization, he still aspires to a sort of limbo of languid incompetence — "I'm thinking of forming a lunch club called BLOCH — the British League of the Completely Hopeless. To join you have to take an oath saying: 'I now realize I am completely hopeless.' My main problem is I have to spend time with people who have not realized it."

All those contradictions, the faintly smug air, and the implicit disclaimer that comes with every quote, leave one with the sensation that conversation is telling you less rather than more about the man. Seeking further enlightenment, I joined him at a party in a West End hotel to celebrate the 15th birthday of Video Arts.

In one corner of the room, Stephen Fry was explaining how he had spent his Cambridge years listening to comedy records rather than pop music and how, to him, Cleeve had simply been God. Cleeve regards Fry as the new-

generation comic with a style most like his own. And it was Fry who did the *Third Secret Policeman's Ball* sketch which involved the ritual humiliation of Cleeve via remarks about his "messy divorce" and the pathetic failure of *Fawlty Towers* after only two series. Cleeve crawled off the stage in tears.

Elsewhere at the party Prunella Scales, creator of the deathless Sybil Fawcett, looked alarmed and reached for her showbusiness thesaurus to say he was "wonderful". Cleeve, resplendent and faintly terrifying with his chest covered by several acres of yellow sweater, was being a perfectly adjusted host and just as inscrutably affable as he had been at Holland Park.

Once psycho-analysis persuades you that you know what you're like, you become impossible. You discuss yourself with happy, irresponsible enthusiasm. You develop the concerned stare of the social worker, designed to establish that whoever you are talking to is either completely mad or terminally repressed. And you embrace your own flaws, such as *inconsistency*, happily imagining them to be lovable. Cleese is not quite there yet, but a perilous gibbousness has begun to intrude.

"I'm interested in the little insanities," he is saying. "I'm talking about if you really start to examine yourself, it is a bit startling what makes you tick. Most of us go around with highly sanitized images of ourselves — highly complimentary ones. But insight changes us without an act of will. I get about three insights about myself a day. I see what a complete s--- I am now. It's very liberating."

Of course, being neither mediocre nor consistent, tomorrow he may think differently. The worry is that he may not.

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INDEX

**Full weekend
TV and radio
guide: page 19**

Arts.....	18	Galleries.....	18
Bridge.....	17	Gardening.....	13
Chess.....	17	Outings.....	13
Concerts.....	18	Review.....	17
Crossword.....	17	Rock & Jazz.....	18
Drink.....	15	Shopping.....	14
Eating Out.....	15	Times Cook.....	15
Films.....	18	Travel.....	12,13

TALKING HEADS

STOP
MAKING
SENSE

RECORD CASSETTE COMPACT DISC

FEATURING:
 Psycho Killer/Slippery People/
 Burning Down The House/
 Once In A Lifetime &
 Take Me To The River.

The bringing of enlightenment is now the rationale behind everything he does. Psycho-analysis has bitten him like some acutely introspective and yet proselytizing religion. He has the enthusiasm of a convert, accompanied by the irritating air of somebody who thinks he knows something that you don't.

"People try to change the world instead of themselves. Once I've understood something, I take great pleasure in wanting to hand it on. I think the great mistake most people make is the assumption that most people are sane. I know very few people who are sane and I think I've only known one man in my life who was really grown-up. He was an English Lord in the United States — Lord Pentland (who headed a foundation named after the esoteric thinker Gurdjieff). All the other people I've met are terribly rea-

Boxing Day with The Times

The Times will be publishing on Boxing Day this year. As well as a full Saturday section with all the regular contributors, there will be a Jumbo Crossword, a Christmas Quiz, complete weekend television, radio and entertainment listings, plus a preview of Boxing Day sport — including full race cards.

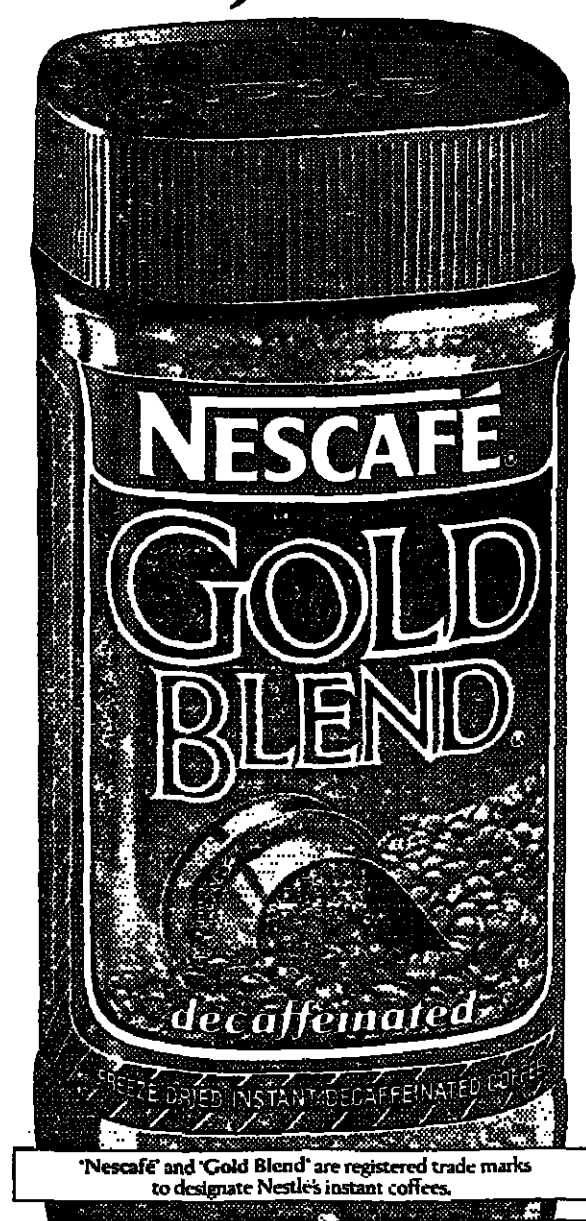
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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL 2

Sloping around the West

With the dollar on the slippery slope, this could be the right season to try skiing in America

A notice in the entrance of the Elkhorn Antique Mall in Main Street said: "This is not a museum, this junk is for sale". A 25 cents-a-go stress-testing machine guarded one side of the door. Gourmet popcorn was sold opposite. Against a background of huge cinema posters from the Fifties and Sixties - disconcertingly, French posters for American films - a motley of discarded domestic artefacts was offered for sale.

Bakelite-topped butter churning jars toppled against Dutch ovens. Rabbits in plastic propped up piles of comics. A solid oak Hoover would set you back \$395, but who needs a patent American kitchen cupboard on a skiing holiday?

There was not much at all that was technically speaking antique in Elkhorn Antique Mall, Park City, Utah, USA. No evidence in here of the town's silver-mining heyday last century. In the street outside, the old buildings, gleaming with good repair, posed against the pinky blue splendour of snow-covered mountains lit by a winter sunset. Long-haired youngsters clattered and scuffed in loosened ski boots. Shouts of greeting belled from group to group.

It was time to relive the day's skiing over a beer. But in Park City quenching a thirst is no easy business. Mormon headquarters, 27 miles away down Interstate Highway 60 on the banks of the Great Salt Lake, dictates that anything strong enough to be worth drinking shall be bought in state liquor stores and taken, decently wrapped, to bars that sell "set ups" of ice, glasses and mixers. Hence the popularity of clubs which bypass this at first amusing but quickly tedious rigmarole.

Park City has been home to the US ski team for the past 13 seasons. It is famous for the depth and lightness of its powder snow, 350 inches in an average season. That's nearly 30ft. Its lifts, eight double chairs, five triples and western America's longest four-passenger gondola, can carry 18,700 skiers an hour up the mountain, where a choice of 82 runs await them, not counting the unmarked powder bowls. Snow makers extend the life of the lower, heavily skied runs to the resort and flood-lighting keeps a couple of home pistes open for evening skiing.

But, you ask, it is fun? It is. The first time I skied a run or two with Ernst Buchler, a mainstay of CMH of Canada, the biggest heliskiing

outfit anywhere, he was putting in a week's rest and recreation in Park City - as if he did not have enough powder at home. And there is a lot of fast, exciting late-season skiing on runs that are groomed not only to flatter but for safety.

Complacency is anathema to Americans in the skiing business, and Park City had seen big changes. Where five seasons ago I had been woken by the clump of pile drivers and opened condominium curtains on a wasteland of girders and frosted shuttering, the new resort centre was now in full swing. Above a labyrinth of bunker car parking had grown a perky village with enough timber cladding and nooks and corners to belie its size and efficiency. The style, Disney-spirited, is easy on the majority eye.

I have to confess to a penchant for skiing in America. It has superb facilities and conditions for a sport I really enjoy, but that is only half the attraction. Pursuing an enthusiasm, it hardly matters what, is a more revealing way of experiencing any new place than taking a passive seat on the tourist circuit and to be shown the sights.

Skiing in Heavenly Valley, California, differs from doing the same thing in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, by a comparable margin to, say, Zermatt in Switzerland and Tignes in France. The scene and the people vary greatly from place to place.

Heavenly Valley has outstanding views over Lake Tahoe in one direction and the Nevada desert in



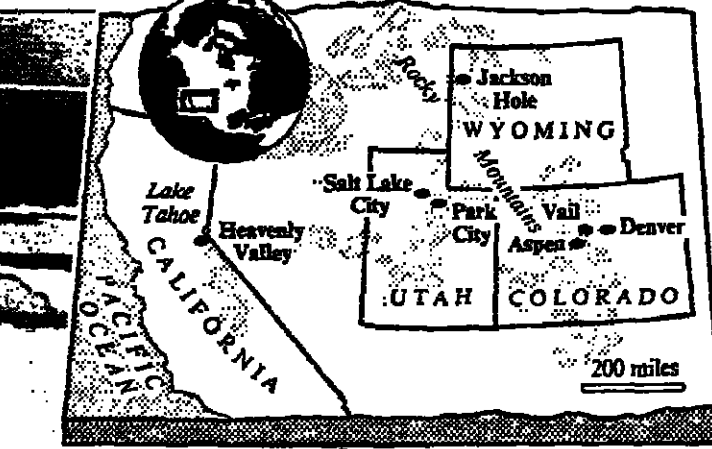
Up to their necks: American-style apron ski in Park City, Utah, where it is easier to find a hot tub than a beer

the other. It has Californian sunshine, strawberries for breakfast, big-time gambling a taxi ride away in Stateline, and more waterbeds and swirling baths per acre than is usual even on the West Coast. The snow is good too.

Aspen and Vail are the big names of Colorado's skiing, but there are more, and all fixed up with light dry snow that makes skiing the

West (in the cowboy sense as opposed to the Pacific coast) the pleasure it is.

Park City is my pick of Utah's ski resorts, but it is only fair to add that I haven't hit a good day in either Alta or Snowbird and that even if I had I would probably prefer Park City's gussied-up 19th-century centre to the bold modern luxury of the other two.



they would rather be outside - a forest of elk antlers poking through morning mist; snowflakes so big and so perfect they looked like encyclopaedia illustrations to the naked eye; dropping down from the summit into Rendezvous Bowl for the first time, and every time since.

It is several winters now since the dollar has been weak enough or the pound in such good health as to bring an American skiing holiday into the sights of British skiers whose winter sports budgets are based on the European Alps. Another reason for making this the season to try skiing in America is that for the first time it is being sensibly packaged with base-line prices for comfortable hotels, or on two people sharing a twin-bedded hotel room (not two couples sharing a double room with two queen size beds).

Self-catering apartments are a palatially spacious surprise to anyone brought up on the sardine cans of the purpose-built French resorts, and living costs are cheap for those prepared to eat breakfast, hamburgers and pizza.

Shona Crawford Poole

OUTINGS

Lantern magic

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY, FILM AND TELEVISION: A magic lantern show for the family featuring Victorian microphotographs specially enlarged. National Museum of Photography Film and Television, Prince's View, Bradford, West Yorkshire, (0274 727488). Today 11am-2pm. Adult £2, child under 16 £1.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS: Family carol concert with the choir of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, the London Brass Virtuosi and organist Mervyn Cousins. Paul Treple conducting. Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, (02885 3543). Today 7.30pm. Tickets £4.50, £6.50, £8.50.

CRAFT IN ACTION '87: Items for sale, demonstrations, Father Christmas, National Trust shop. Open park open. Dunham Massey Hall Park, Altrincham, Cheshire (061 341 1025). Today, tomorrow 10am-4.30pm. Free. Car park 50p.

THE LONDON COLLECTORS' FAIR: Sale of antiques, postcards, stamps, paintings, furniture, records, home hobbies. In aid of charities for animal welfare and the elderly. The Royal Horticultural New Hall, Graycoat Street, London SW11 (01-834 4333). Tomorrow 11am-5pm. Adult £1, child and senior citizens free.

GREAT CHRISTMAS PUDDING RACE: In aid of cancer research with sponsored races for children at 10.30am, adults 11am onwards. Visiting celebrities. Covent Garden Piazza, London WC2. Today.

CHRISTMAS STEAMING: Steam engines all afternoon plus a silver band. Leicester Museum of Technology, Corporation Road, Leicester. Tomorrow 2-5pm. Adult £1, child 50p.

Judy Froshaug

TRAVEL NOTES

American Dream (01-470 1181) is the tour operator with the greatest choice of US ski resorts, including Heavenly Valley. Seven nights in Jackson Hole, inclusive of flights and transfers, costs from £217.

SkiScope (0444 441000) offers eight nights in the Landmark Inn, Park City, from £578 a person sharing a twin room, inclusive of return flights to Salt Lake City and transfers.

SkiScene (01-851 3321), the winter sports arm of Intasun, is now to US ski holidays this season, and offers Vail and Aspen. Prices start at £499 for seven nights b & b with bunk beds at the Alpina Haus.

For information on skiing facilities in Park City Ski Area, PO Box 33, Park City, Utah 84060. Phone 801-649 8111. Lodging and reservations, PO Box 4409, Phone 801-649 0493. Daily lift rate \$30.

Jackson Hole Ski Corporation, PO Box 290, Teton Village, Wyoming 83025. Phone 307-733 2292. Daily lift rate \$27.

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IN THE GARDEN

A bark up the right tree

Winter gardens can still look colourful with carefully chosen trees and shrubs

The contours of a winter garden are quite different to those of summer and to exploit them fully requires an alternative approach. The beauty of deciduous trees in winter is much under-rated: the colours, shape and texture of bark, the delicate pointed branch twigs, the spider's tracery of birch or black-tipped upturn of ash. But they need a strong supporting cast.

At ground level, bushes (*Agave reptans*) will keep their colour through the season, making pools of glossy dark green and purple (var *Atropurpurea*). These will grow in almost any soil and smother weeds, though they may need to be restrained.

Chumps of the evergreen *Iris foetidissima* make handsome green clumps which replace the hummocks of perennials which have died back.

Helleborus foetidus seems to enjoy the cold, putting on leaf and preparing to flower. Other Lenten and Corsican hellebores, later to bloom, have handsome evergreen foliage.

Many hardy shrubs are bred for their bright stems. Among the best known are the dogwoods, with the coral red *Cornus alba* Siberica the most popular. The scarlet *Elegantissima* sports white-variegated leaves in summer.



The key to getting multiple bright stems is to cut the plant back to a few inches in early spring. The golden twig dogwood *Cornus tomajera* Flaviramea does not make quite such a large shrub but is still fairly vigorous and requires spring pruning to maintain a renewing supply of bright green-yellow stems.

These dogwoods may be planted bare-rooted, now or container-grown, throughout the year. If you choose a container plant now, make sure it is planted in a large hole, mixing in well a good compost or leaf mould with the topsoil when backfilling, especially in the area immediately around the root ball.

Dogwoods will thrive in the sun or semi-shade, preferring damp to dry ground, in almost any soil, though they dislike excessively chalky or lime-rich conditions.

The ghostly white-washed bramble *Rubus cockburnianus* is a very hardy species which will grow in most soils and even in deep shade. The best stems are encouraged by prun-

ing to the ground in spring. It is dense, though not unattractive through the summer, with deeply cut, almost fern-like foliage. When established, it grows fast, sometimes invasively. Placed towards the back of borders it shines palely, taking the stage as the foreground plants die back.

Snakebark maples are medium-sized trees - spreading to 24ft in 20 years or so - which give a generous year-round beauty, but it is in winter when the striated bark shows to best effect. The characteristic snakebark effect develops when the tree is about five years old: the older wood turns a delicate grey-green and the white stripes appear, merging into the young brighter shoots gorgeously contrasting with large, shapely buds of pinky brown.

The small Japanese maples are almost irresistible but *Acer palmatum* Senkaki, the lovely coral bark maple, has had the edge for the delicate symmetry of its twigs and buds. It does not, however, have a strong

constitution. The delicate shoots and foliage dislike late spring frosts, will scorch in summer sun and the twigs suffer from rough winds. Like most of the ornamental maples it is susceptible to coral spot fungus. Cherish it in a damp, sheltered, shaded spot.

An easier ornamental maple, *Acer griseum* which tolerates mild shade, is called the paperbark because the trunk peels to reveal a glossy cinnamon new bark beneath. It is slow-growing to about 20ft and looks good grown by itself in grass or in a flowerbed.

Maples do not require pruning except to remove damaged or diseased branches.

Francesca Greenoak

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THE TIMES COOK

Frances Bissell has some suggestions for lifting the big dinner out of the usual rut

Gourmet Christmas

I was already coming round to the view that it was possible to get good, tasty turkey when my feelings were confirmed by the turkey that David Dorricott, chef at the Portman Hotel in London's Portman Square, cooked recently for an 18th-century banquet to mark the publication of *A Palace in Revolution*, by Giles Macdonagh — about Grimoire de la Reymère, the Parisian gourmand and writer.

The highlight was a braised turkey prepared according to the description of a dish served every Wednesday to the gourmand Société des Mercrédies. The bird was stuffed with small homemade sausages, glazed chestnuts and plenty of fragrant truffles. It was braised with veal trimmings and bones on a bed of diced vegetables strewn with a few herbs and spices, moistened with a little stock and, most important of all, the casserole containing it all was hermetically sealed with a flour and water paste. The result was moist, juicy meat with a delicious flavour.

In the past I, too, have pot-roasted or braised turkeys when I could get small ones between five and six pounds because I do not have a casserole big enough to take a larger bird. I really do think it is the secret — if that is, you are more concerned with the flavour and texture of the finished dish than with its appearance. It has to be said that a braised turkey is a poor pallid thing next to that handsome golden brown roast. But I know which I would choose.

If you are determined to roast, there are a couple of steps you can take to keep the turkey that much more moist and to give it more flavour. Put veal trimmings, if you have them, or perhaps some pieces of belly pork and chopped vegetables in the bottom of the roasting pan, and roast the bird on top of them, breast side down. This will make the cooking juices flow downwards, and the breastmeat will stay moist. For the last half hour or so, turn the bird right way up, cover it with a double layer of butter-soaked muslin and allow the breast to roast brown. Of course, if you like your turkey to be bacon-flavoured rather than turkey-flavoured, use slices of bacon instead of the buttered muslin to taste the bird.

Quick, easy starters are always a good thing to have tucked up one's sleeve, so to speak. That way you can turn a simple meal into an altogether grander affair, should the need arise. Shellfish adds a touch of luxury and needs very little dressing up. The ordinary Greenland prawn can taste remarkably good with only a little effort.

Here is a very simple recipe for a cold starter. Cooked mussels, clams, fresh cockles and oysters can be used, as can crabmeat or lobster.



Shellfish in orange mayonnaise

Serves 4
1 1/2 lb/570g whole prawns
1/2 pint/200ml thick mayonnaise
1 orange with fine unblemished skin
2 or 3 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
salt, pepper
1 finely chopped shallot or spring onion
fresh herbs for garnish

Peel the prawns, except four for decoration. Put the mayonnaise into a bowl, and grate the orange zest into it. Squeeze the orange, and stir in enough juice to give the mayonnaise the consistency of thick pouring cream. Stir in the rest of the ingredients and the peeled prawns. How you present the dish now is up to you. Perhaps place a lettuce leaf in a scallop shell, and spoon the mixture into it, garnish with herbs and prawns. Alternatively, arrange on salad leaves on a plate, or on shredded lettuce in a glass dish.

Braised turkey
Serves 4-6
6 lb/2.7kg fresh turkey, plus giblets and neck for stock
6 cloves garlic (optional)
2 oz/60g dried mushrooms, porcini or Chinese mushrooms soaked until soft

3 tablespoons good dry white wine
3 tablespoons olive oil or melted butter
1/2 lb/230g belly pork
salt, pepper
1 onion, peeled and thinly sliced
1 carrot, peeled and thinly sliced
1 celery stalk, peeled and thinly sliced
small sausages and peeled chestnuts (optional)
1/2 pint/280ml turkey stock (see below)

Put the turkey neck, wing pinions and knuckles in a saucepan containing a couple of pints of water together with the vegetable peelings, and simmer for an hour or so to make stock. Peel and slice the garlic, and cut it into thin shivers if you are using it. With a landing needle or pointed knife, make slits in the turkey's skin, without piercing the flesh, and insert the garlic. Slice the mushrooms. Ease the skin away from the flesh of the bird, and arrange the mushroom slices over the breast. Draw the skin back again into place, and secure it with cocktail sticks. If you are lucky enough to have truffles, use them in the same way.

Mix the wine and olive oil, and brush over the bird. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cut the belly pork into small strips and fry it in a very large casserole. Add the vegetables. Put the sausages and chestnuts inside the tur-

key if you are using them. Place the turkey on top of the vegetables and pour over the stock. Bring to the boil, cover the casserole either with foil or the lid, and make sure it is completely sealed. Place in the middle of a pre-heated oven, gas mark 3/170°C/325°F, and braise for about three hours. Clear juices should run when you pierce the thigh. Remove the turkey to a carving platter. Drain the juices into a saucepan and reduce to the consistency you prefer for gravy.

Stuffing
Instead of chestnut and sausage meat or sage and onion, I like to make a stuffing of rice. It is a mixture that you can vary to suit your own tastes. Both duck and turkey would take quite happily to this one. Use half or third quantities for a small duck.
the liver, gizzard and heart of the bird
4 tablespoons melted butter
1 lb/450g cooked rice, if possible, a mixture of brown, wild and basmati rice
2 celery stalks, finely chopped
1 onion, peeled and finely chopped
2 crushed garlic cloves
1 peeled and grated apple
2 tablespoons sultanas
2 tablespoons pine kernels or chopped almonds
8 cloves
1 heaped tablespoon thyme or oregano
salt and pepper

Chop the giblets very small, and fry them in a tablespoon of butter. Allow them to cool, then mix them with the rest of the ingredients. Spoon into the body cavity, and secure closed.

It is fashionable to serve a sorbet between the fish and the meat courses in a very long or elaborate meal. The following recipe could serve just such a purpose, but I also like it at the end of a meal. More sugar can be added if you like. Without sugar, it should be served as soon as it is ready. If you leave it in the freezer, it will set rock hard in no time.

Pomegranate Sorbet
Serves 4
4 pomegranates
1 teaspoon gelatine crystals
1/2 pint/150ml water and fresh orange juice

Cut the pomegranates in half, and squeeze out all the juice. I find a lemon squeezer perfect for this. Strain the juice into a jug. Sprinkle the gelatine crystals on half the liquid, and let it soften for five minutes. Heat the rest of the liquid and stir the gelatine mixture until dissolved. Add to the pomegranate juice and freeze. If you are doing this in a box in the freezer, you will need to stir up the crystals from time to time, from the sides to the middle.

EATING OUT

Tantalizing taste of things to come

Next week this column will be transformed into what they call a Glimmering Gala Occasion. And you will be asked to imagine a dazzling array of brain-dead sitcom actors, antique readers, men with bouffant hair whom you almost recognize, celebrity personalities and the fabulous sounds of the Johnny Howard Big Band. It will be time once again for The Times Restaurants of the Year Awards.

This week, however, I shall recall some of those establishments which I've written about during the last year and which, although they haven't won going, satisfy the criterion of being places that one would go back to. One goes back, of course, at one's peril — the chef may be absent in person or mind, the dish you had last time may prove to be the only good one in the house, the front of house staff may be feeling bloody-minded.

This last was the case when I returned to Jenson's, which one July luncheon had impressed me as a valuable addition to London's small band of serious French bourgeois places. On a September evening the generous, judicious cooking was as fine as it had been 10 weeks before — but we were treated to a performance by the *maître d'* that was ugly, petulant and crass. One of our number, not having finished her first course, asked for bread with her second course.

A tiny martinet appeared and refused her request on the grounds that the combination of bread and sauce would so fill her up that she would be unable to finish this course, too. His bullying manner may have been jolly but he was quite in earnest. We should have left, but it was late, we were tired, our host had just arrived from Cambridge and so on. On the credit side, a young waiter without tyrannical ambitions offered us drinks on the house when *le petit caporal* was without ears.

Another first rate kitchen rather let down by its restaurant is that of Fifehead Manor between Salisbury and Andover. There are no tannins in the dining room, it is simply rather dowdy, and one gets the sense of an amateur restaurant seriously out of kilter with a professional and imaginative kitchen whose cooking of game and construction of sweets were of the highest order. The frozen cheese, the watery coffee and the indifferent wine list were of a rather low order. Still, worth the trip.

Oakes at Stroud is also worth a trip — though I suggest that you make it by train since this pretty house on the side of a Cotswold valley offers some worthwhile wines. A post-prandial drive would be a reckless proposition. Though the service is more

Jonathan Meades names the places that just failed to make next week's Times Restaurants of the Year awards



professional than that at Fifehead, it, too, is a bit on the drab side. But Oakes offers some tremendous dishes at startlingly low prices.

The loose rule which held that provincial restaurants were inevitably more expensive than their London counterparts seems to be changing. Obviously, metropolitan property prices and rents see to one end of that; and I was going to say that an increasing number of punters must be enabling out-of-town restaurateurs to keep their prices down. But I fear that is not the case. A place such as Oakes is booked twice over at weekends (no doubt by Londoners with cottages) and is empty during much of the week despite offering a set lunch at the sort of price normally associated with a dish of fillet in a pub.

White's, 20 miles east of Cricklade, was also pretty empty the mid-week night I ate a capon and rather rustic meal there. This is a congenial restaurant with a discriminating and generously priced wine list and an easy friendliness to the services.

The service at the rather grand Cannizaro House on Wimbledon Common is very different. It's formal, flashy, Franco-Italian and is to White's homeliness what Jeremy O'Connor's cooking is to Colin White's. It is not everyday cooking done with *élan* — which is not to say that it lacks guts or that it is over-fussy; it's simply a different language, a

mandarin one without much contact with the vernacular. O'Connor does dishes that are very rich indeed; a little more light and shade would be welcome, but I have no doubt that I shall return.

There are a few restaurants that are worth revisiting for a particular dish, they may or may not be otherwise interesting. The *bombilla* at L'Hippocampe (Mondays only) is clearly without peer in this country and is, as I wrote a few weeks ago, the best I've eaten anywhere. At Port's in Knightsbridge, an otherwise pleasant but hardly remarkable basement restaurant, they serve a splendid dish of salt cod grilled with garlic and chilli, and dressed with good olive oil. It is accompanied by nothing but boiled potatoes.

Such simplicity and restraint (and the confidence that is needed to demonstrate those qualities) are rare. Molnar's great winter stew of smoked goose and beans is worth travelling to the Finchley Road for and if you never go to West Hampstead for any other reason go for the dumplings and braised beef at the delightful Czech Club, which is one of the cheapest decent restaurants in London; two can eat there for between about £18 and £25.

Wakaba, in the same area, cannot be accused of being a bargain. It is a characteristically expensive Japanese restaurant with an uncharacteristically minimalist interior — I include it here as an oddity that should be inspected by anyone curious to know what happens when you reach the end of a decorative call de sac.

Other more humane systems of design are to be found at a couple of French establishments which offer trad bistro food at reasonable prices — Le Muscadet in Marylebone and Le Plat du Jour in Euston. Both places are lived-in and used, and quite evidently what London needs more of.

The much posher St Quentin and Chez Moi are also worth bearing in mind — the former because it has gone back to serving real food and the latter because it never stopped: if you stay put the whole world will catch up with you as it completes a circuit.

Finally, two places in the Low Countries to which I shall certainly return: Le Tout Court in Amsterdam is akin to a London outfit like Alastair Little — it is small, informal and graced by an inventive chef who has, perforce, to draw on alien kitchens since his native one is dead. Francis Demoucheaux, whose Hostellerie St Roch in the Ardennes I wrote about last month, excelled himself when he came to cook at the Kensington Hilton — if ever you need an excuse to visit Belgium this chef is it.

Le Plat du Jour: 19 Hampstead Rd, London NW1 (01-387 9644)
St Quentin: 243 Brompton Rd, London SW3 (01-589 8005 and 581 5131)
Chez Moi: 1 Addison Ave, London W11 (01-603 8267)
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DRINK
The bare inessentials
Eric Beaumont

Jane MacQuitty casts an expert eye over this Christmas's array of wine gadgetry

Wine gadgets make great gifts. At least, that's what every department store and gift shop buyer would have you believe. Viewing this year's healthy crop of wine paraphernalia I remind myself, yet again, that the only real essentials are a corkscrew and glass — and sometimes not even those.

The ultimate in wine weaponry this Christmas is the invention of the Texan engineer Herbert Allen: the matt black, demonic-looking Screwup Lever Model corkscrew. This ingenious piece of engineering automatically whisks corks out of bottles in seconds. All you have to do is to hold it in place over the neck of the bottle and lift the lever to remove the cork; pushing the lever down enables the cork to drop out of the machine.

I first tried this device out on Beaujolais Nouveau morning at The Times tasting, where it copied admirably — although dinner party guests may well complain about its Chamber of Horrors looks. It is expensive, too (around £79 from Harrods and Liberty's, although Bibendum, 113 Regent's Park Road, London NW1, sells it for £65). An indulgent Christmas present for the wine buff who has everything, and essential for those with arthritic fingers.

A useful stocking filler for keen wine drinkers is Mr Hatten's Foil Cutter. This clever contraption neatly divides capsule from cork and bottle in the manner of a first-class wine waiter. Unimpressed? You won't be when you realize that it effortlessly does the job even on those thick plastic capsules that I find impossibly difficult to remove (£3.95 from good wine merchants and department stores, £3.25 from Bibendum).

Shifting a stubborn champagne cork, or one of those unyielding slippery plastic corks that come with bottles of inexpensive fizz, should be easier this Christmas and New Year with the Champagne Twist (£16.50 in chrome from Harrods and Liberty's, or £5.95 in white heavy duty plastic). This practical piece of wine equipment does the same job as a pair of champagne pliers with half the effort. Its handle and four sharp prongs allow you to retain a firm grasp of the cork whilst you gently and correctly twist the bottle. Any household keen on fizz and armed with the Champagne Twist should be able to say goodbye to sprayed ceilings for ever.

Most wine calendars concentrate on bucolic vintage scenes or the odd chocolate-blot shot of vineyards under snow or wine cellars surrounded by blossom. Oddbins 1988 calendar, illustrated by Ralph Steadman and priced at just £2.99, avoids all such clichés, concentrating instead on this cartoonist's waspish and thoroughly entertaining way with wine. Any Christmas stocking containing this and Oddbins latest winter 1987 list, also illustrated by Steadman, is worth having.

One item of wine paraphernalia I hope not to receive this year is the Winealyzer, billed as a "teach yourself wine tasting kit". It is not that

I am being smug about the teach-yourself bit, just that I think the kit (costing about £30 and available from Harrods and Fortnum & Mason), which contains a tasting glass and nine basic bottled wine essences, is a waste of money. People who want to train their palates to recognize sweetness and sourness can easily add a sugar or lemon juice solution to their wine. Similarly, anyone keen to know what an acidic wine tastes like has only to add vinegar. Still, I suppose that essences such as tannin and oak, which are also included in the kit, are more difficult to reproduce.

I am also not at all certain about the merits of the Vacu-vin Wine Saver gadget. This is supposed to remove air from partially used bottles of wine, keeping the wine within, so they say, "as good as new... up to two weeks after you've first drawn the cork". It is based on the principle that oxidation is the prime deterioration factor with open bottles of wine and works simply by corking a bottle with the Vacu-vin rubber stopper and then sucking the air out with the Vacu-vin pump. Wine trade experiments have found that the Vacu-vin keeps half empty bottles of wine fresh for a week. So far the Vacu-vin has failed to do so in my household — both with a bottle of vintage port and a dry white table wine. But I shall continue to experiment with it. The Vacu-vin is available at good wine merchants and department stores for around £7.

Imagine a food processor that didn't make more than you need.

Those clever French chaps from Vivalp have come up with a marvellously versatile mini food processor. It not only blends small amounts of mayonnaise or baby food, but can also chop herbs, nuts or onions, and grind spices or coffee. In more ways than one, it's exactly what you need.

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BRIDGE

Against the tide

Portugal, not a great force in recent years, played very well against us in the fifth round of the European Championship. Although they eventually finished 13th, they had been deprived, half-way through the event, of the services of one of their best players, the charming Carlos Teixeira.

With the tide flowing strongly against us, good play was required at both tables to score a much needed swing on this hand.

Great Britain v Portugal. Game all. Dealer West.

		W		N		E		S	
		♠		♥		♦		♣	
A 8 5		K 10 9 4		Q 10 9 2		J 6 5		A 8 5	
Q 10 9 4		K 10 9 4		Q 10 9 2		J 6 5		A 8 5	
Q 10 9 4		K 10 9 4		Q 10 9 2		J 6 5		A 8 5	

This was the bidding in the Closed room:

		W		N		E		S	
		♠		♥		♦		♣	
1♠		2♥		3♦		4♣		5♠	
1♠		2♥		3♦		4♣		5♠	
1♠		2♥		3♦		4♣		5♠	

I led the ♠10, which Sheehan ducked. Declarer won the ♠Q and correctly attempted to dislodge East's entry by playing a club to

dummy's ♠Q. Sheehan ducked smoothly. It now seemed safe for declarer to assume that if I had the ♠A, Sheehan must hold the remainder of the high cards to justify his opening bid, so he confidently finessed the ♠J. I won with the ♠Q and persevered with another heart. Now Sheehan was able to clear the suit, retaining his ♠A as an entry to enjoy it. This manoeuvre left declarer a trick short.

The auction in the Open room effectively took the same course.

Did East hesitate imperceptibly before ducking the ♠Q? I don't know, but it was a battle of wits that the British won, even if they lost the war in the shape of an 11-19 VP defeat.

Jeremy Flint

CHESS

Brilliant idea

Eddie Gufeld, Samboyant 20-stone Soviet Grandmaster and spectacular manager of the Queen's English, is in Seville. Here he looks it over the other members of the analysis room where tremendous "improvements" are found at lightning speed over the moves played in the adjacent theatre hall in which Kasparov and Karpov are at work.

The booming catchphrase, "my friend, you haven't yet seen such brilliant moves", announces that Gufeld is in action. Gufeld is a jovial figure, a kind of chess Falstaff, but he does have many clever ideas for popularizing chess.

One of his favourite schemes, which nobody has yet had the courage or finance to implement, is a tournament where the prizes are awarded not according to the conventional yardstick of points scored, but decided solely by the brilliance of play. Thus, Grandmaster X might score one point from 10 games, but still win first prize because his solitary win was adjudged the most brilliant game.

Of course, for such a scheme to work the tournament would have to be composed of great players capable of producing first-class brilliance (Kasparov, Karpov, Timman, Short, Korchnoi, Larsen, and others) and there would have to be an unimpeachable presiding jury to decide on the destination of the prizes. I would be interested to hear readers' views on this new format for a chess competition.

This week's game is one of Gufeld's which contains some remarkable sacrifices, certainly worthy of an award. White: Vassily Smyslov. Black: Eddie Gufeld. Reti Opening, Moscow 1907.

An unusual and provocative extended fianchetto of White's Bishop. Reti himself had used it to defeat Capablanca in a sensational game at New York 1924, the first game Capa had lost for eight years.

A deviation from Reti's 5g3, and possibly less promising than the old master's continuation.

A remarkably risky and aggressive move. Black tries to exploit White's tardy and

artificial development, but the material sacrifices can be great.

This looks crushing. How can Black escape from the double attack against his Rook and Knight?

The only way to play for the advantage. If instead 12 Nxd2 Nxd2 13 Nxd2 axb5 and Black emerges on top.

White should play 17 Ra2. In the position which now arises White retains a nominal material edge but it is difficult to face Black's initiative and superior development.

A very fine move indeed and the key to Black's victory. The point is to prevent White playing a5 and subsequently Nb5 which would rescue his Knight.

Gufeld can be seen in the flesh at the forthcoming Foreign and Colonial tournament at Hastings.

Raymond Keene

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REVIEW

Aretha Franklin has returned to her gospel roots. Richard Williams hears the result

Power from the pulpit

Aretha Franklin One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism (Arista 903178, 2 discs)

Of all popular music's many failures during the 1980s, none has been more wasteful than the application of Aretha Franklin's voice to hard disco and rock material. You did not need to listen very hard to "Who's Zoomin' Who" and "Jumpin' Jack Flash", two of her recent hits, to hear that this 45-year-old woman no longer had a clue what she was singing about, or why.

We are talking here about a voice that 20 years ago defined the very pinnacle of soul music: her Atlantic recordings of such songs as "Respect" and "I Say a Little Prayer" remain the yardstick by which all the idiom's singers are judged, and according to whose measure all must fall short. In these songs, and dozens of others, she displayed a gift so wonderfully natural that its expression appeared almost involuntary; she seemed to be speaking a language beyond her control. Because of this, the listener sensed that she had to be telling the truth; she had no option. In her case, it happened to be the gospel truth.

As the daughter of the Rev C. L. Franklin, whose flamboyant sermonizing made him one of America's most charismatic and successful black churchmen, Aretha Franklin was virtually born in church; yet she had barely reached adulthood when she followed the path of other gospel-trained singers, into the world of secular entertainment.

It soon became apparent that you might take Aretha out of the church, but you can't take the church out of Aretha. Every note she sang betrayed her heritage. The effect was a gospel-blues synthesis of transcendent power: when she interpreted pop songs like "You Send Me" or "Ain't Nothin' Like the Real Thing", the listener was never quite sure whether she was really addressing her man or her Creator. At a deeper level, songs of loss and despair - already charged with a sense of the tribulations endured by a woman who was a mother at the age of 15 and a divorcee not long afterwards - glowed with an unshakable belief in eventual redemption: the explicit text of black worship from slavery times on.

In 1972, at the height of her fame and powers, she went back to her roots and recorded *Amazing Grace*, a double



album of pure gospel music, featuring the Rev James Cleveland and his Southern California Community Choir at their home church in Los Angeles. Fifteen years later, after a long period in which her achievements have fallen behind her reputation, she has repeated the idea with *One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism*, for which she assembled a cast of gospel stars at her father's old stamping ground, Detroit's New Bethel Baptist Church, where (as Mary Wilson wrote in *Dreamgirl*, the story of the Supremes) many future Motown stars spent their childhoods learning about the top of call-and-response patterns and the power of a tambourine-driven back-beat.

Produced by Miss Franklin herself, the new effort is far less disciplined

than its predecessor. In its indulgences, though, and specifically in its inclusion of lengthy speeches, introductions and "prayer invocations", it is perhaps a more accurate reflection of worship in the black churches. Notwithstanding the inclusion of the irredeemably kitsch "Ave Maria", the star attraction hits her best form in fiery duets with two great fellow soloists, Mavis Staples of the Staple Singers and Joe Ligon of the Mighty Clouds of Joy, and in a glorious final shout-up by the ensemble on "Packing Up, Getting Ready to Go".

None of the singing, though, quite matches the impact of the Rev Jesse Jackson's appearance. He may not be singing in their lovely version of Clara Ward's "Jesus Hears Every Prayer". We can only listen, and wonder.

Past masterpieces

CLASSICAL RECORDS

Heifetz/Barbirolli: The Pre-war Half Recordings EMI EX 748375 (1 LP) Mercury/Emereo Pre-war Parlo Records EMI EX 748396 (1 LP and cassette) Heifetz/Sargent: Bruch and Viennese Concertos RCA CD R86214

In a decade in which musical table-talk seems to be more of speakers than of speech, more of digital than of dynamic sound, one welcomes every possible opportunity to be reminded of an era in which recording recorded rather than created performance style.

Keith Hardwick's transfers and compilations of archive material for the HMV Treasury are becoming a legend: this latest Heifetz release is one of HMV's finest.

Heifetz recorded the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto in 1937, towards the end of four heady years of touring Europe during the Depression of the 1930s, and the wonder

of it is his lightness of touch, his staging out of an entire movement so it seems, in one long lyrical breath.

Few violinists today would dare to approach the slow movement so simply: Heifetz buoys up its melody by breathing its very contours, so that Rubato becomes a propulsive force, not a sentimental manner. There is Wienawski, Vieuxtemps and Sarasate to enjoy as well, and a diamond-cut Saint-Saens *Rondo Capriccioso*.

Thirty years later, Heifetz was recording at 35 years, but without Dolby sound, with the bracing baton of Sargent but without the instinctive rapport of Sir John Barbirolli. The Bruch Concerto misses out on the Ganyemede in Heifetz, but it is a performance of intense drive, with its slow movement expanded into a long, delighted voyage of discovery.

This is playing nurtured by example, teaching and reflection, not driven by the spurs of contract and competition. So, too, is that of the 20-year-old Menuhin. For all his own,



The young Menuhin: inspired long drinking at the Heifetz well, it was to Enesco's "spontaneity, creative genius, fire" that he turned for his deepest inspiration; and John Holland's remasterings celebrate that partnership in the 1936 Dux and 1938 Mendelssohn Concertos.

The Mendelssohn is played with the impetus of instinct and the precise pointing of a tentative, even diffident musician, almost in awe of the notes. The phrasing is tremulous with life, the song of the slow movement totally lacking in extraneous gesture.

Hilary Finch

Playful giants

ROCK RECORDS

French, Frith, Kaiser, Thompson Live, Love, Laif & Loaf (Demon FINE 102) Bobby Womack The Last Soul Man (MCA MCF 3408)

Live, Love, Laif & Loaf is a playful collaboration between four musical giants: John French, who (as "Drumbo") was the drummer on all Captain Beefheart's classic recordings; Fred Frith, a founder member of the experimental "rock" group Henry Cow; Henry Kaiser, a guitarist who has worked with Frith in the past; and Richard Thompson, the folk-rock virtuoso. Although a collective CV of this order suggests a difficult album, the quartet provides a welcome antidote to the moribund New Age and/or systems syndromes that have seduced so many of our sealer instrumentalists in recent years.

Indeed, the 11-song collection backs and twigs like a fairground waltzer, rejoicing in its many ironic contrasts. A traditional oriental tune, "Hail Sai Oji-San", is given an English nuptial treatment, sung in the Okinawan language by

Thompson, while Side 1 bows out with a rendition of the Beach Boys' "Surfer USA".

Predictably, it is Thompson's contribution that sparkles. The slowly twisting "Dammed Dog Black Night" is in his inimitable from-a-whisper-to-a-scream style, while "A Blind Step Away" proceeds from an achingly wistful single-voice chant into a song of pained, contemplative atmospherics. But Frith's mad-dog blues, "Where's The Money?", and French's energetic "Wings & a Mode" underscore what is a very substantial recording achievement.

The seductively titled *The Last Soul Man* finds Bobby Womack continuing his unabashed bid for a stardom which he claims should be backdated to the days when he scuffled round the circuit in the shadow of performers like Sam Cooke. A third of the album is given over to expensive, but inferior, remixes of three tracks from last year's *Womack*: "When The Weekend Comes", "The Things We Do (When We're Lonely)" and "Outside Myself".

David Sinclair

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

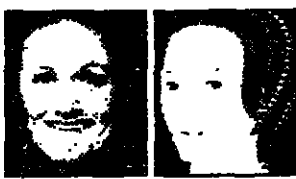
Pulling the Cork plug

The Cork Report, which once looked like revolutionizing British theatre, now faces an inglorious end. Next week's meeting of the Arts Council will consider a recommendation from its drama panel that the second part of the theatre inquiry - "The Wider Theatre of Tomorrow" - should be abandoned because it has grown more "complicated" and costly than envisaged.

Sir Kenneth Cork, anxious about lack of financial backing for recommendations published by his original panel, severed connections some time ago. Patrick Boyd Maunsell became secretary for Part II, but he admits: "I'm in limbo."

Anne comes home

When Joan Sutherland, 61, sings the difficult title role in Donizetti's *Anna Bolena* at the Royal Opera House next year, the production will be home-grown rather than imported.



Sutherland and Anne Boleyn

ported. John Pascoe was hired as designer and producer after it became apparent that a new staging would cost around the same as importing, and extending the joint Stuttgart State Theatre-Bregenz Festival production.

Royal polo in Palm Springs will support "the wooden O" at London's Bankside. Major Ronald Ferguson is organizing a few chuckles in California in March to raise funds for Sam Wanamaker's scheme to recreate Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. The Duke and Duchess of York will attend the match during their visit to Los Angeles as patrons of the UK/LA 88 Festival celebrating the best of British arts.

Engaging ways

David Suchet and Saskin Reeves, the talkative transatlantic romancers in *Separation*, at the Comedy Theatre, are mercifully free of the vagaries of British Telecom: not so producer Howard Parker, who was aghast when, talking on his private line to the box office about the confidential matter of advance takings, he realized someone could hear every figure via a crossed line. It was none other than Suchet on his home phone.

Messiah multiples

The Hallelujah Factor (HF) has been devised by a classic music agency as a guide to Handel's *Messiah*. Concert promoters multiply the number of singers in their choirs by 42 - the average number of times each singer "hallelujahs" - and display the HF in advertisements, purportedly to end confusion about how many "voices" the public will hear. It would be simpler to put the number of singers into the advertising; too simple, perhaps?

Lynda Mordin

Gift-wrapped murder

A Taste for Death, by P. D. James (Sphere, £3.50)

An ex-Cabinet minister and a tramp are found with their throats slit in the vestry of a Harrow Road church. It's a promising start. Characteristically, P. D. James then leaves them there undisturbed while she goes into a thorough account of the lives, personalities and past histories of the minor characters who discovered them. This may be a murder story, but the dead and the detection are allowed to be almost incidental to the closely detailed lives of the victims' friends and relations and the surrounding cast. If it is a thriller, the thrills are not in discovering the villain, since he is clearly marked out from the start, but in sorting out the jumble of minor stories that hang around the central event.

Fortunately the detective is unflatteringly cool and stylish; and everyone slots into a convenient pattern of stereotypes. There is the coldly beautiful wife, the catgiving brother-in-law, the autistic old mother, and the daughter who has become a revolutionary. In the end it is a simple story of money and class, and if there is a lot of blood, it is the sort that goes with gift wrapping. Christmas is upon us.

The Old Devil, by Kingsley Amis (Penguin, £3.95)

This is almost a picaresque novel based on what is really an extended pub crawl. Various elderly couples have little

PAPERBACKS

to fill up their days but memories and fears, so that for them the "evenings start after breakfast". This puts great emphasis on food and drink - not so much the way it tastes as the way it looks or is used to make a point about style. It also provides a lot of jokes about indignation, panaches and visits to the lavatory.

It is not easy to sustain a comic novel about old people



Kingsley Amis: Welsh jokes

living conventional lives in Wales; and in some ways this is an ambitious novel, but it is also rather monotonous. Amis can be funny about Welshness, and his professional Welshman who has spent his life in profitable exile but is now returning to his roots, does show up some of his best tricks, but elsewhere the jokes are often laboured and stale. As a novel it does have echoes of the author's former glories

- perhaps enough to have merited its Booker Prize - but it just doesn't make old age quite funny enough.

Arky Types, by Sara Maitland and Micheline Wandor (Methuen, £3.95)

The epistolary novel takes a new turn here. Letters are used to explore the process of forming myths and writing fiction, particularly feminist fiction. It is witty and clever, managing to combine apparent chaos with a clear thread of complex intellectual ideas. Firstly the authors exchange letters with each other about possible themes for their novel. Then various pairs of bizarre letter-writers take these themes further. Mrs Noal, an archetypal Jewish mother, is writing from the ark to a suburban vicar's wife. Two lesbian tortoiseshells, who have left the ark because they find it bourgeois, are corresponding with Win-a-the woman who is a straight, and wants them to conform. A man writing from her convent raises questions about wide-ranging religious politics; and a mysterious hanger-on called Franka explores the effect of various fantasies.

As a framework to all this creativity the authors' publisher and agent provide a chorus of letters about contracts and commissions. Together the letters make up a map of the process of producing a work of fiction. It is sometimes hard to hold together, but it is never dull.

Anne Barnes

NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

- FICTION
- Cry Freedom, by John Briley (Penguin, £2.95)
- Novelization of his screenplay of *Biko* and Woods for Asterbury.
- East of Cards, by Penelope Lively (Penguin, £2.50) Complete short stories of Booker winner, with nine new ones.
- Plans for Departure, by Vassilios Katsikis (Penguin, £3.95) Touching love story and mystery in India poised for revolution and world on edge of earthquakes in 1914.
- The Enchanter, by Vladimir Nabokov, translated by Dmitri Nabokov (Penguin, £2.95) The long-lost novelette that was the first little throb of *Invitation*.
- The Third Betrayal, by Michael Hartland (Sphere, £2.95) Thriller imitating the ludicrous "real world" of spook-hunters, by alleging that Director General of MI5 is Soviet mole.
- NON-FICTION
- Another Day of Life, by Ryszard Kapuscinski, translated by William R. Brand and Katarzyna Mroczkowska-Brand (Penguin, £3.50) Vivid and humane account by Polish journalist of the last months of Portuguese rule in Angola.
- Morning, by Julian Barnes (Sphere, £3.50) Timeless account of a delicate awakening from childhood to boyhood in the Thirties.
- The Alice B. Toklas Cook Book (Brilliance Books, £7.95) New edition with extra recently discovered recipes and introduction by Paul Levy to literary, gastronomic, gossip, and last delight.

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, December 17. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, December 19

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1437

- ACROSS
- 1 Adoring (6)
- 4 Case (6)
- 7 Backless shoe (4)
- 8 Crimean battle village (8)
- 9 Johnson biographer (5)
- 15 Feet sadness at loss (6)
- 16 Light wind (6)
- 17 Second World War S. African Prime Minister (7)
- 23 Plan cunningly (8)
- 24 Rapid drumbeat (4)
- 25 Spurred (6)
- 26 Surpass (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Green circus (4)
- 2 Worth assessment (9)
- 3 Seizes (5)
- 4 Peak (5)
- 5 Bad-tempered (5)
- 6 Little (5)
- 10 Young elf (5)
- 11 Dash away (5)
- 12 Electron element (9)
- 13 Alcohol sediment (4)
- 14 Impatient, eager (4)
- 15 Lash (5)
- 16 Boredom (5)
- 17 Be (5)
- 20 In front (5)
- 21 Sudden rush (5)
- 22 Walk heavily (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1436

ACROSS: 1 Relish 4 Gambit 7 Gib 8 Katmandu 9 Ragtime 11 Chant 12 Saus 13 Lovers 15 Logic 16 Capulet 20 Ballyhoo 21 Anna 22 Yarrow 23 Evolve

DOWN: 1 Regards 2 Lying 3 Hakim 4 Guts 5 Bandage 6 Trust 10 Issue 11 Group 13 Nigger 14 Salute 15 Lash 17 Aton 18 Lend 19 Show

The winners of prize concise No 1431 are: W. R. MacDonald, Lydgate Court, Nuneaton, Warwickshire and Mrs Patricia Rafter, Salford Road, Brighton, East Sussex.

SOLUTION TO NO 1431 (last Saturday's prize concise)

ACROSS: 1 Freight 4 Bazaar 7 Saw 8 Measured 9 Glyndebourne 15 Autumn 16 Shapes 17 Modus vivendi 23 Festival 24 Bait 25 Sealed 26 Defeat

DOWN: 1 Fiat 2 Involved 3 Tinned 4 Burt 5 Hindin 6 Spurn 8 Names 11 Ochre 12 Repudiate 13 Elze 14 Main 18 Obese 19 Until 20 Vivid 21 Valid 22 Wept

Name

Address

Spending in US hit by Black Monday

From Bailey Morris Washington

American consumers curtailed their spending following the market crash on "Black Monday" but retail sales still rose by 0.2 per cent in November and inflation, as measured by the producer price index, remained unchanged, the Commerce Department reported.

The good economic news failed to reassure nervous financial markets which continued to be influenced by the dismal trade figures released on Thursday and by the plummeting dollar.

"The major worry in the market is the decline in the dollar," said Mr Dan O'Connor of Irving Securities Corporation.

Wall Street officials said yesterday that the record \$17.6 billion trade deficit in October had shaken the fragile confidence of the market which had emerged in recent trading sessions.

They predicted a volatile bear market in coming weeks as investors keep a close eye on the bond markets which came under strong assault.

Inflation, however, has remained stable despite the dollar's plunge, with producer prices unchanged last month from October when they declined by 0.2 per cent. Analysts had expected a rise in the price index for finished goods of more than 0.3 per cent.

CEGB fee increase provides a boost for private power

By Colin Narborough

Private power companies received some good news yesterday when the Central Electricity Generating Board announced plans to make it much more attractive for them to feed electricity into the National Grid.

The announcement comes as the electricity industry is urgently gearing itself for privatization, though the CEGB insists that the encouraging signal to private sector generating companies is more in response to its need for more capacity at optimum cost.

Mr John Baker, the CEGB's corporate managing director, said the improvement in prices paid to private generators entering long-term contracts would be incorporated in the board's proposed bulk supply tariff (BST) for 1988-89.

The capacity charge is a key element of the BST paid to private firms supplying electricity to meet CEGB winter peak demand, reducing the board's need to invest in new capacity. This charge will now increase by nearly 30 per cent.

The board hopes to be able to offer the increase in the coming financial year to meet anticipated increases in power demand in the 1990s. The CEGB's excess capacity, which held down the level of



Listening to industry: John Baker of the CEGB

privately generated electricity it bought, is now disappearing, forcing it to turn to private suppliers.

Currently, non-CEGB generators provide about 4 to 5 per cent of overall power for the national grid, but there is growing private sector interest in the generation business.

On electricity prices, the subject of much speculation and criticism from industry in recent weeks, Mr Baker said the likely increase in the

wholesale tariff next year would be in the region of 8 per cent.

A rise of this order was needed to meet inflation and new financial targets set by the Government. "Speculation of much higher increases was unfounded," he said.

The retail tariff is expected to increase by about an average of 9 per cent, but will be liable to show some regional variations, with the upper end in double figures.

Arab Gulf states 'agree new oil quotas'

From David Young Vienna

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) is locked in discussions on how to re-allocate its production quotas to reconcile the conflicting demands of Iran and Arab Gulf nations.

The cartel is expected to move back into full ministerial session today to finalize its agreement.

Opec's "three wise men" — Dr Rilwanu Lukman, the Nigerian oil minister and Opec president; Dr Subroto, the Indonesian oil minister; and Dr Arturo Brisanti, the Venezuelan oil minister — appeared to have been successful in persuading the Arab Gulf countries to accept new, marginally changed quotas, which will firm the oil price within Opec's price range.

The Arab states have been adamant that the price should remain unchanged, while Iran has been seeking a formula to restore dollar earnings.

A compromise on output, with Iraq taking a production cut to bring it into line with Iran, would have a tightening effect on the market. Some traders are predicting this would allow Iran, Nigeria, Libya and Algeria to obtain a slightly higher price for their lighter quality crude oils. These are similar in quality to most North Sea crudes.

Yesterday, Dr Lukman held private talks with each minister. "Progress is being made," he said.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

A big leap forward for County NatWest

Wood Mackenzie has finally found a home — and none too soon. Uncertainty is no friend to securities businesses. Only the arrival of a bear market and a squeeze on jobs around the City prevented more of firm's assets walking out of the door. There is some satisfaction, too, that Wood Mac's rescuer is British.

Both sides in the deal were coy about the price. TSB and Hill Samuel, have clearly had to accept less than the goodwill value of up to £25 million they originally hoped for. That was inevitable after the market crash, though they may not have realized this until the near-deal with Morgan Guaranty fell through. Realism no doubt revived the interest of County NatWest, which had been one of 22 original inquirers and was one of two institutions waiting on the sidelines while Wood Mac negotiated with Morgan a few weeks ago.

For County, the deal makes good operational sense. It has built a useful international securities business and has been an effective broker and market-maker in its chosen fields in the UK — escaping relatively lightly from Black Monday. But it has had great difficulty breaking out of the small companies into London alpha stocks, without

which it could hardly rival the likes of BZW and Warburg.

Its policy of recruiting key people gradually had run into a brick wall: while the bull market lasted there was simply no one left to hire. With the purchase of Wood Mac, however, County takes a big leap forward. The combined group should now have a fair chance of rivaling the biggest securities houses in the City.

It also gains the services of John Chien. Wood Mac's recent vicissitudes do not suggest that Mr Chien is the City's greatest deal-maker, but his ability to build and run a successful stockbroking business is unrivalled.

The fit between the two firms is impressive. County claims to be among the top three brokers in some six market sectors, while Wood Mac claims the position in seven sectors, with only one or two overlapping. Likewise, the firms claim to have little overlap among clients — often a problem in stockbroking mergers as big customers spread their business.

The darker side, for City folk, is the prospect of redundancies. It is too soon to say how many and where these will come, though they are likely to be in the tens rather than the hundreds.

Pepper's lesson from 1929

Gordon Pepper throws the stock market crash into typically astute perspective in his latest Midland Montagu *Monetary Bulletin*. From the records of the New York Federal Reserve he has unearthed notes showing that Montagu Norman, the redoubtable prewar Governor of the Bank of England, urged the Fed in January 1929 to raise interest rates sharply for a short period "with a view to breaking the spirit of speculation" on Wall Street — and to repeat the dose as often as was needed to lance the speculative bubble.

Then, but only then, interest rates could safely be reduced. As the Fed memo notes: "It is not high rates that any European country shudders at; it is the persistence of high rates."

Wall Street continued to boom until the crash of October 1929. The Fed had been worried about fuelling speculation with too much liquidity back in 1927, but opted instead to counter a feared short-term downturn in the economy.

Britain's monetary authorities do not seem to have been so concerned about speculation in the Eighties, the Governor even deeming the crash no reason to put off his 10-day trip to the Balkans. Partly due to foreign exchange intervention, more than £17 billion of liquidity was injected between February and October.

In the US, there had been a similar rapid monetary expansion in 1986,

fuelling the boom in asset prices. This year, the Fed brought money growth to a juddering halt — too suddenly, given the bubble, says Mr Pepper.

But the crash was triggered by fear of inflation in Germany as a result of the vast quantities of money created by currency intervention. This first hit the German bond market, then short-term rates, obliging the Bundesbank to suspend the Louvre accord.

Mr Pepper warns that the belated injection of liquidity after the crash to fend off recession may only make things worse. It hinders the market solution to the failure of US economic policy and the dearth of US savings. He blames the Fed's action to prop up share prices for the dollar's collapse.

The injection of liquidity has produced an expansionary force now battling away with the deflationary forces of lost confidence and financial wealth. But Mr Pepper warns that the deflationary forces are bound to win. In the absence of deliberate US policy measures to boost savings by raising interest rates, the market will again impose its solution. If the expansionary forces look like winning, bond markets will panic at the prospect of liquidity-induced inflation and trigger a second collapse in equity markets.

This view underwrites Nigel Lawson's preference for a rise in US interest rates rather than renewed massive intervention to stabilize the dollar. Its gloom is horribly rational.

Jardine to defend action by US firm

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

Jardine Strategic Holdings says it will fight the legal action brought against it by Bear Stearns, the US banking group.

Bear Stearns is suing the Kewick family-controlled investment group, alleging the Hong Kong firm was wrong to pull out of a US\$391 million (£213 million) tender offer for Bear Stearns shares in the wake of the stock market crash.

At the end of September, Jardine said it was to buy a 20 per cent stake in Bear Stearns. The deal was at \$23 a share, but after Black Monday, Bear Stearns shares fell to as low as \$10.50, and on October 23 Jardine said it had decided to back out of the deal.

The legal action seeks an unspecified amount of damages from the Hong Kong company.

Yesterday Mr Brian Powers, the managing director of Jardine, said the firm would be fighting the action.

"Our agreement with Bear Stearns specified several conditions to which our offer was subject," he said.

"Those conditions were not satisfied. We were entirely within our rights in terminating the offer and acted in the best interests of our shareholders in doing so."

The legality of the decision hangs on a clause in the original Jardine tender offer document, which details the circumstances in which the offer for the New York-based banking group could be postponed or terminated.

These included the purchaser becoming aware of any facts that had a materially adverse significance on the value of the shares.

Writ over Carrian for Price

The liquidators of Carrian Holdings, the Hong Kong company that collapsed in 1983 with debts of more than HK\$1 billion (£70.32 million), have filed a High Court writ against Price Waterhouse, the accountants, for alleged negligence as Carrian's auditors.

The joint liquidators are claiming unspecified damages and interest from the accountants "in their capacity as auditors of the plaintiff's consolidated annual accounts and non-consolidated annual accounts for the year ended December 31, 1981."

Mr Tom Clydesdale, a senior PW partner, said it is a protective writ which would be strongly defended.

"It is to protect their position under the Statute of Limitations. If they don't issue the claim before the end of December, there will be problems," he added.

Pao holding group profits leap 35%

From Our Correspondent, Hong Kong

Sir Y K Pao's World International yesterday announced after-tax profits up 35.6 per cent to HK\$242.4 million (£17.04 million) for the six months ending September 30.

Shareholders are to receive an interim dividend of 3.8 cents a share, compared with 3.5 cents a share last year.

World International, which is 70 per cent owned by Sir Y K Pao and his family, holds stakes in Wharf Holdings (60 per cent), Hongkong Realty and Trust (32.2 per cent), Wheelock International (100 per cent) and Lane Crawford (\$8.7 per cent).

Mr Peter Woo, the chairman and Sir Y K Pao's son-in-law, said all the core operating divisions of Wharf, which reported interim net profits up 11 per cent to HK\$440 million on Wednesday, had performed satisfactorily during the period; net contributions

from the property, hotels, terminal and transport divisions reported a 38 per cent improvement.

Mr Woo said Lane Crawford recorded a 15 per cent profit increase on higher turnover, while the Wheelock International investment holding business reported "mixed results."

Hongkong Realty yesterday reported a drop in operating profits from HK\$184 million to HK\$175.3 million, but earnings were boosted by an extraordinary item of HK\$20.8 million, representing profits from the sale of long-term investments and the realization of deferred profits.

Hongkong Realty's turnover dropped from HK\$567 million to HK\$524 million as the result of the sale of the group's interest in Lane Crawford in October last year.

TEMPUS

Sears takes another shot at breaking into mail order

Sears' earlier attempts to break into mail order have met with no success, but the timing of its latest foray looks propitious.

Mail order companies, in line with high street retailers, had a bad summer. Poor weather hit consumer demand and stock levels built up. Freemans' interim pretax profits of £15.2 million disappointed, as did the previous year's final profits of £32.4 million pretax.

The stock market crash has brought Freemans' share price down from 241p on the eve of Black Monday to 165p before the market raid. The shares touched a high of 295p earlier this year.

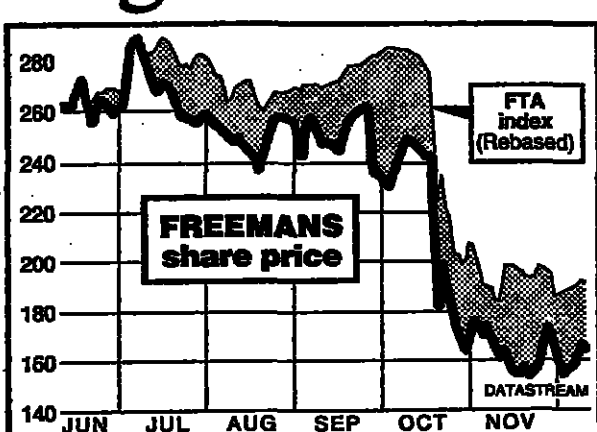
Shareholders feeling the pinch may well be tempted to accept the money. Freemans' largest shareholder — Great Universal Stores — is under no such pressure, but others may be less fortunate. The main large outside shareholders are Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association with 7.5 per cent, and the Prudential with 4 per cent.

Sears' minimal gearing gives it no problems launching an all-cash bid. Cash would also ensure no earnings dilution, whereas a paper bid would involve some dilution.

Sears' price of 285p looks pretty full, particularly given the market climate. It is offering an exit p/e on historic earnings of 21.0. The prospective exit p/e is 19, assuming Freemans makes profits this year of £35 million.

Next took over Grattan in an agreed deal in the summer of last year at an exit p/e of 19. However, the Freemans shares rose 14p above the bid price last night, indicating the market thinks a higher offer is possible.

While it is early days to tell whether the Next/Grattan link-up is matching expectations, Sears clearly feels it could gain significant benefits from selling its well-known retail brands through "specialist" and is prepared to pay for the potential of putting the two businesses together.



Tricentral

At last, Elf Aquitaine has started rolling the ball which will surely put Tricentral out of its misery. Elf's sighting shot is handsomely above the market price. But Tricentral's share price had been burdened with its financing troubles and this offer serves only to bring Tricentral's rating up to the same level as that of the other Wyth Farm partners.

So, generous though it may seem in relation to earlier quoted prices, it is unlikely to prove high enough to finish the job. The shares have already risen to 165p — 20p above the offer price — and the market is frothy with talk of white knights and counter-offers.

For Tricentral's part, it has been feeling especially vulnerable to takeover since Black Monday which delayed completion of its £350 million five-year financing package. Nevertheless, there seems little question that its management has been caught on the hop by this bid and will have its work cut out to show why it should remain independent.

Even if the refinancing can be hurried through in time to present a defence package to its shareholders, it will almost certainly include a rights issue. This is hardly the most auspicious time to be seeking equity capital, especially if it is to ward off a bid. Tricentral may not therefore be able to look to its shareholders for support.

Elf's offer values Tricentral's oil and gas at around £1.75 a barrel for proven oil, falling to 60p to 70p if probable reserves are included.

Just about every oil company of any size has run its slide-rule over Tricentral at one time or another with a view to buying it and shareholders should sit tight for a better offer.

API

A growing number of best-selling novels now have eye-catching gold and silver covers. The production of foils creating this glitzy effect accounts for 27 per cent of sales at Associated Paper Industries and 34 per cent of trading profits.

The range and broadening application of stamping foils provide API with the flexibility to sell internationally — a useful skill in times of fluctuating currencies.

The core business, paper-making, and paper and film converting, continues to do well. Overall results were also helped by a full year from recent acquisitions.

The tax charge rose sharply due to corporation tax changes. The balance sheet is, however, strong.

If marketing and advertising become even more important in recessionary times, API's prospects will remain good. The shares provide an interesting investment in a company with leading positions in niche markets.

Crystalate

Crystalate Holdings hardly helps its investment case by hiding behind the excuse of competitive forces in declining to specify profit contributions — especially from the recently acquired IRC group in America, for which it paid £21 million.

It is also shy of spelling out the negative impact of dollar movements on 1987 results, merely saying they were responsible for several hundred thousands of pounds.

But the market was in a forgiving mood yesterday, marking the shares 18p higher at 154p after what superficially appear to be flat results. Pretax profits were merely up from £7 million to £7.14 million.

The operating outcome before exceptional items totalled £1.21 million — made up of £941,000 for the troubled Besson group and £271,000 for the closure of the Pelco distribution business — was more encouraging. At that level, profits advanced from £5.89 million to £8.62 million, though these include an estimated trading contribution of about £3 million from IRC, in for 10½ months.

There was, none the less, some underlying growth within the business, and there are positive aspects which point to profits rising to at least £9.2 million, if not £10 million, this year. The exceptionals should prove non-recurring, IRC will this year be in for a full year, and with net cash of £6 million more acquisitions could be in store.

On 7.6 times earnings the shares have more upside potential than downside.



In times like these, you need an "homme d'affaires" more than ever

In the old days, everyone of substantial means employed a wise professional who co-ordinated their financial affairs sensibly, while they got on with their lives. He didn't pretend to know the answer to everything himself, but he knew the best person to ask.

Nowadays, the "homme d'affaires" is a rare bird indeed, but he didn't entirely disappear with the quill pen...

He is alive and well in The Master Portfolio Service. This combines the clean administration and tax efficiency of a unit trust with the really worthwhile aspects of a personal, traditional stockbroker's service — but without all the messy and expensive paperwork.

The minimum investment is a modest £50,000, but such is the beauty of the concept that quite a number of our clients have happily entrusted us with well over £500,000.

In current market conditions, this unique combination of the old world and the new is particularly appropriate for the thoughtful investor. Why not ask us for details of our service? Your "homme d'affaires" is here waiting to help you.

Telephone or write to Michael Goodbody.

CAPEL-CURE MYERS
Member of the Stock Exchange

65 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2EL. Tel: 01-248 8446 Telex: 886653 PROCUR G
Member ANZ Group

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UNLISTED SECURITIES

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling index compared with 1975 rate as at 76.1 (day's range 76.1-76.2).						
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES						
Market rates for September 22						
	Range	Close	1 month	3 month		
New York	1,234.5-1,239.0	1,238.0-1,239.0	0.015-0.016	0.020-0.170s	Argentina ester*	7,810.7-8,077.3
London	2,393.3-2,400.8	2,397.7-2,400.8	0.015-0.016	0.19-0.200s	Australia ester	1,212.0-1,212.0
Amsterdam	3,585.3-3,767	3,587.3-3,767	1-1/2p	3-1/2p	Bahian ester	0,8510-0,8550
Brussels	62.58-62.93	62.77-62.93	1-1/2p	3-1/2p	Brazil cruzeiro	121.57-122.25
Frankfurt	2,595.9-3,022	2,597.8-3,022	1-1/2p	3-1/2p	Colombian ester	0,8610-0,8620
Madrid	2,262.2-2,263.7	2,264.5-2,263.7	1-1/2p	3-1/2p	Costa Rica ester	7,250.7-7,400
Paris	2,210.0-2,221.51	2,218.5-2,221.51	1-1/2p	3-1/2p	Czech dracmas	236.75-238.75
Milan	11,598.2-11,718	11,671.5-11,718	5-7-1/2p	17-1/2-1/2p	Hong Kong dollar	14,200.0-14,212.5
Osaka	19,165.0-19,145	19,175.0-19,165	1-1/2p	3-1/2p	Indian ester	0,8510-0,8520
Stockholm	10,859.0-10,914.5	10,859.0-10,914.5	1-1/2p	3-1/2p	Kuwait dirham KD	0,5030-0,5070
Tokyo	235.05-236.22	235.05-236.22	1-1/2p	3-1/2p	Malaysia dollar	4,552.5-4,558
Zurich	2,414.21-2,412	2,415.3-2,412	1-1/2p	3-1/2p	Norway kroner	0,2020-0,2020
Frankfurt	2,489.2-2,490	2,489.2-2,490	1-1/2p	3-1/2p	New Zealand dollar	2,235.4-2,235
					Saudi Arabian riyal	6,872.5-6,812.5
					Singapore dollar	3,560.5-3,560.4
					Taiwan dollar	2,235.4-2,235
					S Africa rand (rand)	3,940.0-3,940
					U A E dirham	0,7325-0,7325
					*Lloyd Bank, Rates supplied by	

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Singapore	2,013.00-2,018.00	W Germany	1,635.00-1,636.00	Belgium (Com)	128.53-128.75
Malaysia	2,483.00-2,490.00	Switzerland	1,234.00-1,235.00	Hong Kong	7,750.00-7,755.00
Thailand	2,175.00-2,174.00	Netherlands	1,545.00-1,541.00	Portugal	133.20-133.70
Canada	1,304.00-1,303.00	France	5,547.00-5,552.00	Finland	110.00-110.50
Sweden	5,940.00-5,945.00	Japan	128.70-128.80	Austria	11.49-11.51
Norway	8,559.00-8,560.00				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Ecolat

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates %	Clearing Banks %	Finance Hse %	Dollar CDs (%)		
Discount Market %	Low %	Week %	1 mth: 8.40-8.35	3 mth: 8.15-8.10	6 mth: 8.15-8.10
Overnight High %	Low %	Week %	12 mth: 8.40-8.35		
Treasury Bills (Discount %)					
1 mth: 8 1/8 - 8 1/8	3 mth: 8 - 8				
3 mth: 8 1/8 - 8 1/8	6 mth: 8 - 8 1/4				
Federal Reserve Bills (Discount %)					
1 mth: 8 1/8 - 8 1/8	3 mth: 8 1/8 - 8 1/8	3 mth: 8 1/8 - 8 1/8			
1 mth: 8 1/8 - 8 1/8					
Treasury Note (Discount %)					
1 mth: 9 1/8 - 9 1/8	3 mth: 9 - 9				
6 mth: 9 - 9					
Interbank (%)	Overnight: open 8 1/8 close 8 1/8				
1 mth: 8 1/8 - 8 1/8	3 mth: 8 1/8 - 8 1/8	3 mth: 8 1/8 - 8 1/8			
6 mth: 8 1/8 - 8 1/8	9 mth: 8 1/8 - 8 1/8	12 mth: 9 1/8 - 9 1/8			
Local Authority Deposits (%)					
1 mth: 8 1/8 - 8 1/8	3 mth: 8 1/8 - 8 1/8	6 mth: 8 1/8 - 8 1/8			
9 mth: 8 1/8 - 8 1/8	12 mth: 8 1/8 - 8 1/8				

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Country	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Dollar	5 1/8 - 5 1/8	5 1/8 - 5 1/8	5 1/8 - 5 1/8	5 1/8 - 5 1/8
Deutschmark				
Call: 5 1/8 - 5 1/8	3 1/8 - 3 1/8	3 1/8 - 3 1/8	3 1/8 - 3 1/8	3 1/8 - 3 1/8
French Franc				
Call: 6 1/8 - 7 1/8	5 1/8 - 5 1/8	5 1/8 - 5 1/8	5 1/8 - 5 1/8	5 1/8 - 5 1/8
Yen				
Call: 11 1/8 - 11 1/8	9 1/8 - 9 1/8	9 1/8 - 9 1/8	9 1/8 - 9 1/8	9 1/8 - 9 1/8

3 mtc 8¹¹ 18-87¹⁸ **TREA**
Applic: 8545 8m

Standing CDOs (%)
 1 mtr: 8%–8% 3 mtr: 8%–8% 6 mtr: 8%–8%
 12 mtr: 8%–8%

DON FINANCIAL FUTUR

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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Open: \$491.00-491.50 Close: \$492.00-492.75 High: \$495.00-499.50 Low: \$490.00-491.50	COMEX Aluminum: \$508.00-511.00 (227.50-228.00) Nickel: \$492.00-495.00 (21.00-21.50) Maple: \$100.00-101.00 (227.50-228.00) Ammonia: \$100.00-101.00 (227.50-228.00) New Soybeans: \$11.50-11.60 (227.50-228.00) Old Soybeans: \$11.50-11.70 (227.50-228.00) Peanut Oil: \$21.50-22.00 (227.50-228.00) Sugar: \$17.00-17.50 (227.50-228.00)
Open: \$491.00-491.50 Close: \$492.00-492.75 High: \$495.00-499.50 Low: \$490.00-491.50	COMEX Aluminum: \$508.00-511.00 (227.50-228.00) Nickel: \$492.00-495.00 (21.00-21.50) Maple: \$100.00-101.00 (227.50-228.00) Ammonia: \$100.00-101.00 (227.50-228.00) New Soybeans: \$11.50-11.60 (227.50-228.00) Old Soybeans: \$11.50-11.70 (227.50-228.00) Peanut Oil: \$21.50-22.00 (227.50-228.00) Sugar: \$17.00-17.50 (227.50-228.00)

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Bids lift shares

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
 ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 7. Dealings end December 18. (Contango day December 21. Settlement day January 4.
 \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.
 Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (An) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 22.)

Portfolio - Gold -

From your portfolio card check your eight share price increases, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Groceries	Property	
2	Rain Ind	Building/Roads	
3	Wingway (Group)	Building/Roads	
4	Rugby Group	Building/Roads	
5	Microgen	Electronics	
6	Multiple Elect	Electronics	
7	Lox Ind	Industrial L-R	
8	AB Elect	Electronics	
9	Underwoods	Drapery/Stores	
10	Warrington	Building/Roads	
11	ERA Op	Building/Roads	
12	Bank of Scotland	Bank/Discount	
13	Midland (an)	Bank/Discount	
14	Acquascan 'A'	Drapery/Stores	
15	Travis & Arnold	Building/Roads	
16	Rex Bros	Bank/Discount	
17	Allied-Lyons (an)	Breweries	
18	Marks Spencer (an)	Drapery/Stores	
19	Devenon	Textiles	
20	Audio Mainly	Electronics	
21	Leighton	Leisure	
22	Leighton	Leisure	
23	Tobert & Britten	Drapery/Stores	
24	Spur (LW)	Industrial S-Z	
25	Exponent	Industrial S-Z	
26	Phyco	Chemicals/Plastics	
27	Lang (J)	Building/Roads	
28	SPP	Industrial S-Z	
29	Alexandra Wear	Industrial A-D	
30	Lea	Motor/Aircraft	
31	Goldberg (A)	Drapery/Stores	
32	Young 'A'	Breweries	
33	Powerson	Industrial L-R	
34	McAlister Foods	Food	
35	British Gas (an)	Oil & Gas	
36	Br Airways (an)	Industrial A-D	
37	TI	Industrial S-Z	
38	Barnet Devs	Building/Roads	
39	Smith (WH) 'A'	Drapery/Stores	
40	Widling Office	Drapery/Stores	
41	Son & New (an)	Breweries	
42	Sekers	Textiles	
43	Warburg SG	Bank/Discount	
44	Hawker Siddeley (an)	Industrial S-Z	
45	Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
 Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

1987 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

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Gain or Loss
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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High Low Company Price Change % P/E
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High Low Company Price Change % P/E
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BREWERIES

High Low Company Price Change % P/E
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BUILDING, ROADS

High Low Company Price Change % P/E
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FINANCE, LAND

High Low Company Price Change % P/E
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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High Low Company Price Change % P/E
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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High Low Company Price Change % P/E
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CINEMAS, TV

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DRAPERY, STORES

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HOTELS, CATERERS

High Low Company Price Change % P/E
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INDUSTRIALS A-D

1	Summit	57							
2	T & S Stores	115	105	+	5	25	27	11	19
3	Target	105	95	+	5	25	27	11	19
4	Time Products	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19
5	The Rack	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19
6	Time Products	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19
7	Up Top Drug	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19
8	Unimarc	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19
9	Vons	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19
10	Ward Way	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19
11	Wicks	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19
12	Wicks	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19
13	Wicks	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19
14	Wicks	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19
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69	Wicks	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19
70	Wicks	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19
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72	Wicks	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19
73	Wicks	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19
74	Wicks	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19
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99	Wicks	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19
100	Wicks	106	100	+	5	25	27	11	19

ELECTRICALS

486	200	All Electric	285	300	+	17.18	58	12	15
175	200	Amstar Corp.	163	168	+	3.08	27	14	14
490	200	Nalagame	290	290	-	0.00	16	14	14

Edited by Peter Gartland

FAMILY MONEY/1

THIS WEEK

- Japanese funds.....2
- Fidelity PEP shelved.....2
- Small business tax.....3
- Unsolicited raffle tickets.....3
- Tax on Spanish property.....4
- House purchase.....4
- Bankruptcy.....5
- Pensions.....5

Global fund from Royal Trust

A new global bond fund is being launched by Royal Trust Asset Management. The Prudential Global Bond Fund will invest in a range of currencies including the US dollar, the yen, sterling and the West German mark. Investments will be mainly in government bonds and Eurobonds. The minimum investment is £2,000. Details: Royal Trust on 01-638 2531.

Brokers offer 9.25% mortgages

Mortgages at 9.25 per cent are now available from two brokers. BMI Finance and John Charcol Ltd can obtain funds from the Bank of Ireland at this rate, for loans of at least £40,000. Endowment, pension and repayment mortgages will be considered.

Christmas made easier



ACCORDING TO YOUR TAX FORM YOUR PROFITS ARE VERY SMALL BEER...

Christmas in financial terms could perhaps be described as the moneylender's dream and the borrower's nightmare.

Today, the shops will be packed with people jostling to buy presents. Most of them will be worrying about what to buy, and whether they will have finished before the last bus or train leaves or the parking meter runs out; few will think too hard about whether they can afford the gifts that are filling their bags.

Spending a thought for your pocket now could, however, ease the financial blues that hit most people during the January sales.

Space prevents an all-embracing survey of the banking services, bank credit cards and store cards, but a look at what the major players have to offer shows how a little careful planning can save you money.

The golden rule, which should be rigorously observed, is not to let your bank account slip into the red—particularly if you have not agreed an overdraft with your account-holding branch.

If you do, you will have to pay for all your transactions throughout the charging period, and have to pay a penalty rate of interest. If the overdraft is agreed, you still have to pay for transactions but the interest rate is lower.

One form of borrowing offered by some of the banks is revolving credit. Barclays has the Cash Plan account, Lloyds has Cash Flow and at Midland, you can open a Save and Borrow account. In every case you pay a fixed monthly amount into the revolving credit account—with Barclays and Midland, the minimum is just £10, whereas at Lloyds it is £20. You are then free to borrow 30 times the monthly amount, subject to any maximum limit.

Every one of the three accounts mentioned carries a cheque book and you can have a cash card to use at the appropriate automated teller machines. At Barclays and Midland, you can also have

standing orders and direct debits on the account.

Debits on Midland's Save and Borrow cost 35p each. At Barclays, the charge is 40p per cheque, standing order and cash machine withdrawal, and 20p per direct debit. Lloyds charges 50p per cheque and 50p per day for cash machine withdrawals. Interest, not surprisingly, has to be paid on the borrowed amount (Barclays 23.8 APR, Lloyds 23.8 APR, Midland 20.9 APR).

If you are in credit, the bank pays you interest, even though it is a fairly low rate (Barclays 4 per cent net, Lloyds 3.5 per cent net and Midland 2.5 per cent net).

Two other common forms of finance are the personal loan and, of course, the credit card.

The minimum personal loan you can take out with Lloyds, Midland or National Westminster is £500, whereas with Barclays it is £300. Customers are offered a choice of repayment periods, usually ranging from 12 months to five years, although Midland will let you repay the loan over six months.

Free borrowing in the short term

The attraction of a personal loan is that once you have withdrawn the money, the monthly payments are fixed throughout the repayment period. The typical rates of interest are currently: Barclays 19.7 APR, Lloyds 19.5, NatWest 20, Midland is the exception in having two rates—loans of £500-£999 are 21.7 APR and larger loans are 19.7.

In contrast to a personal loan, a credit card offers free short-term borrowing—but to benefit from this, you must repay the outstanding amount in full by the due date.

An Access cardholder with Lloyds Bank will have to pay 25.3 APR (23.8 APR from December 21) with Midland and NatWest 23.1 APR. For Barclaycard holders the rate is also 23.1 APR.

People often use their credit card and have every intention of paying it off—if not this month, then the next, or the next... and so on. There is nothing wrong with this. From the issuing bank's point of view, you are the perfect customer if you repay the minimum amount every month and do not exceed your credit limit. But you are certainly doing yourself no favours.

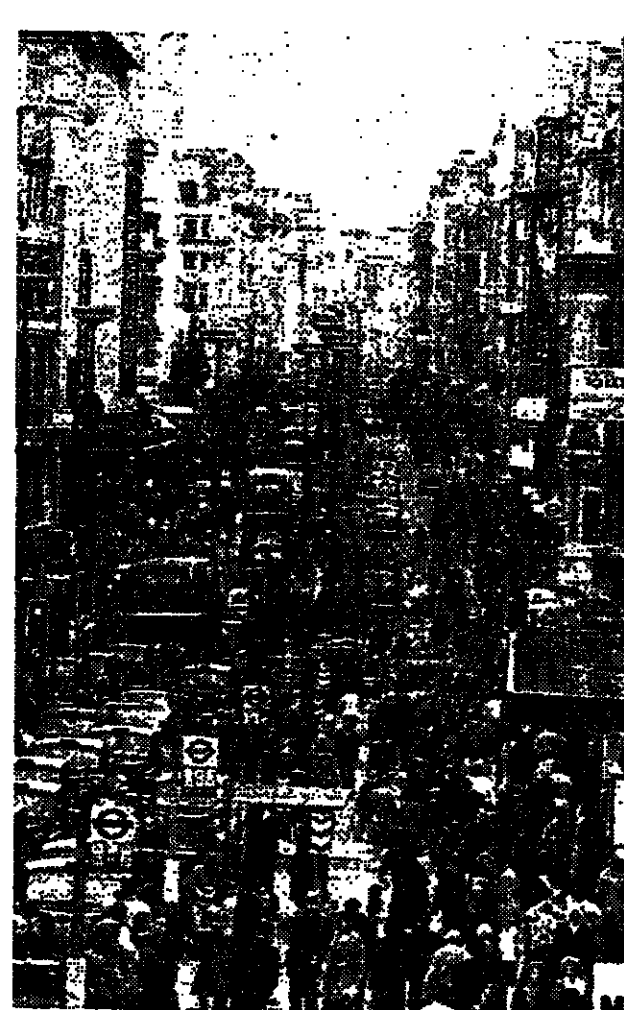
If there is any chance that you are still going to be paying for this year's presents next December—and that is not as unlikely as it may sound—you should consider a personal loan. You could arrange this from the word go or use the loan to repay your credit card bill in full by the due date.

To give some indication of the comparative cost Lloyds Bank supplied various calculations. The simplest one to understand is the personal loan. A £500 loan repaid over one year would currently cost £45.84 a month, bringing the eventual total amount repayable up to £550.08.

The cost of repaying £500 spent on a Lloyds Access card over 12 months will, of course, depend on how much is paid off every month. Assuming that no other purchases are made, if you paid only the minimum amount every month for 11 months, which for this amount would be 5 per cent, you would have to make a final payment of £346.26 to clear the debt in the 12th month.

Beware high rate on store cards

The total interest charged, including a residual payment, would be £83.28. So, the total spend would be £583.28. These figures are based on the new rate of 23.8 APR.



Nightmare or dream day? Gift shopping in Oxford Street

To make a fairer, but hypothetical comparison with a personal loan, Lloyds calculated that if you repaid £46.12 a month for 12 months, you would have paid off all but 45p by the end of the year. Of course, this assumes that there is no change in the interest rate, and that you are able to calculate the amount of interest due every month.

In this case, the total spend would be £553.89, which is only marginally more expensive than the personal loan. However, few people would have the time or expertise to calculate their repayments in this way.

The important point made by these comparisons is one that cannot be stressed often enough—do not use your credit card for longer-term borrowing.

Of equal importance, beware the high rate of interest usually charged on store cards. John Lewis is very competitive, with a current rate of only 19.5 APR, but this is an exception, not the rule. And watch out for loans at an exorbitant rate of interest—take the time to compare the APRs—and you could save yourself a small fortune.

Amanda Pardoe

PERSONAL PENSIONS

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Funds full of hope



Sir Gordon Borrie: concerned

Investment trusts, long the Cinderella of the financial services world, are likely to get a significant boost once the Financial Services Act comes into force next April.

Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, is concerned that they could be at a disadvantage as against unit trusts and life assurance when it comes to advice to the public by intermediaries.

Sir Gordon's comments coincide with his report on the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association rule book. FIMBRA is one of five self-regulating organizations that will have day-to-day jurisdiction in financial services once the Act starts to bite.

In his report, Sir Gordon

highlights the requirement that all forms of collective investment, including investment trusts, should be allowed to compete on a level playing field and emphasizes that the treatment of investment trusts is not even-handed.

He recognizes that "investment trust savings schemes may offer advantages for the investor compared with unit trusts because of lower management and transaction costs".

Sir Gordon says he will monitor the FIMBRA rules in the light of his anxieties and report to the Government after a year of the new regulatory regime.

The Association of Investment Trust Companies, which represents investment trusts, says it intends to ensure that intermediaries are better informed about their benefits, giving performance comparisons that are reliable and accurate.

Unlike unit trusts, which are open-ended funds, investment trusts are closed-ended with a fixed number of shares available for buying and selling on the stock market. The shares are owned primarily by institutions such as insurance companies and pension funds but the private investor has become more of a target for investment trust marketing in recent years.

Supporters argue that investors can buy investment trust shares at significant discounts to their net asset values whereas unit trust offer prices are approximately 5 per cent above the actual value of the units. The argument is also advanced that managers of the closed-end investment trusts can take many more longer-term investment situations into their portfolios because they do not always have to adapt their portfolios to take account of a flow of net redemptions or net issues of their shares.

They can also invest in a much broader selection of investments than can unit trust managers, important examples being unlisted securities up to the whole of their portfolios, if they wish, and management buyouts.

Apart from the benefits of Sir Gordon's intervention, investment trusts could also gain in popularity if the Chancellor yields to the growing pressure to relax the rules surrounding personal equity plans (PEPs).

City analysts Alexander Leung & Cruickshank point out in their *Investment Trust Year Book* published this week that there is no better equity-based investment for the private investor than investment trust shares. "The extreme limitation on the use of investment trust shares as part of PEP schemes was a crass decision," they say.

Peter Gartland

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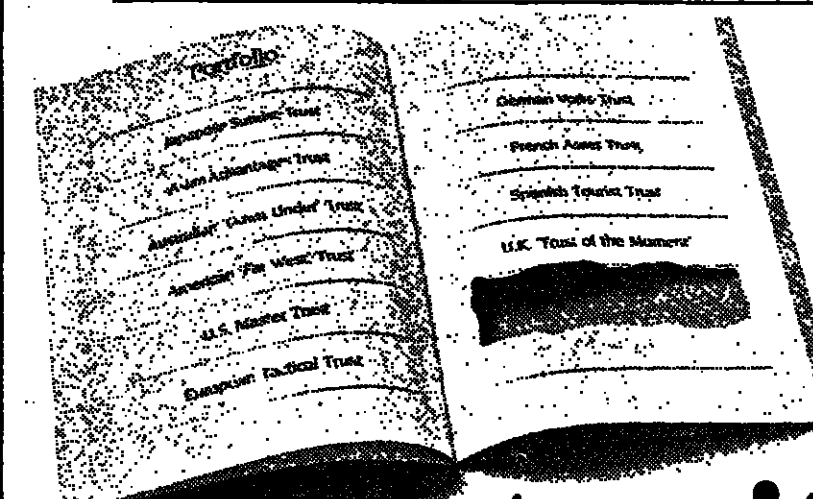
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We believe such a time has come and so, on 28th November, we launched the new Fidelity International Bond Trust. The aim of the Trust is to provide investors with a high level of income, plus long-term capital growth from an international portfolio of Government bonds and other quality fixed interest securities.

The missing element.

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Remember, bonds not only offer a high level of income (7%* in the case of Fidelity International Bond Trust) but also real prospects of capital growth if interest rates continue their downward trend. With an international portfolio of bonds, currency gains may also be achieved.

Since equity markets fell two months ago, professional investors around the world have been increasing their exposure to bonds. We expect this to continue over the coming months as more investors recognise the advantages of taking a more balanced approach to their investments.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL INVESTORS
Please note that if you purchase units by telephone, you should be aware that the deal made will be legally binding and will require immediate settlement. A contract note for your application will normally be sent within 5 working days. Unit certificates will normally be sent within 15 working days of receipt of settlement. The estimated gross yield for Fidelity International Bond Trust is 7% as at the offer price of 25p per unit on 10th December 1987. Units may be bought on any day of the last business day of the month. You will receive a cheque within 7 working days of our receiving your application. The Trust will pay distributions (interim payments) by a free voucher 1st May (and 21st April, 31 Aug (and 21st July, 30 Nov (and 21st Oct (and 20th Feb) (and 21st Jan) each year. An initial charge of £2.50 is included in the offer price of units out of which the Managers may pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries. Rates are available upon request. The Trust pays an annual charge to the Managers out of income (or capital if there is insufficient income) of 1% plus VAT of the value of the fund. The Managers have the right to change this fee to a maximum of 2% or giving not less than 5 months notice to unit holders. The Trust Deed contains power for the Managers and Trustees, by supplemental deed without sanction of a meeting of unit holders, to take power to use currency futures and forward currency contracts as hedging techniques, should these be permitted by the Department of Trade and Industry, to make changes to permit purchases or sales from or to experienced investors with the Managers or the Trustees and to make changes in the future to the terms of the Trust. The Trust is a wider range investment as defined by the Trustee Investment Act 1961 and is authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry Manager of the Unit Trust Association. Offer not open to United States citizens, residents of the United States or the Republic of Ireland.

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Signature _____ Date _____
Surname Mr/Mrs/Miss _____
Unit holder (please) _____
First Name(s) _____
Address _____
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Japan, still the favourite

INVESTMENT

The Japanese stock market has held up well since the Crash of '87. PETER GARTLAND looks at its potential

Share investment has not been a subject of polite conversation since the start of the equity market crash on October 19. But are there optimistic signs in any of the big overseas markets?

Japan has established itself as a favourite with UK investors and the confidence has been repaid by good share performance. This has been further enhanced by a strengthening yen. According to OPAL Statistics, the top 25 performing unit trusts over five years to December 1, 1987, include six Japanese investing funds - from Wardley, Fidelity, NM Schroder, Abbey, Britannia and Henderson.

It is interesting that there are no Japan-investing funds in OPAL's bottom 25 over the five years. But 16 of the laggards are US-investing funds, and that says a lot about the long-term build-up of the United States' economic problems.

The US has few investment friends right now, but the Japanese market's resilience since Black Monday has been impressive, as our graph shows. The question is whether, among the big stock markets, Tokyo can continue this trend. Not that Japan has escaped entirely, but the equity market falls have been only around half those recorded in the UK and the US.

Tokyo cannot remain immune to the outside world for ever, so further heavy falls in other major markets would undoubtedly take their toll. Nevertheless, according to Fidelity Investment Services, which has a good track record of investing unit trust money

in Japan, the Japanese economy's underlying strength means there are still opportunities for selective investors.

For example, the yen is so strong that exports might well have been expected to be hit for six by now. Yet the recent figures show how well industry has adjusted to a rise in the currency, with increased rationalization and moves to offshore production. Obviously, there is a limit to the

The economy is in good shape

level at which Japanese industry can remain competitive, but the danger level is not yet in sight. Taken together with the reducing dependence of the economy on exports, the outlook on this front remains encouraging.

Then there is the growth of the economy as a whole. Figures given last week reinforce the view that the economy is in good shape and these healthy figures reflect not only the adaptation of companies to the higher yen, but also the Japanese Government's measures to stimulate the economy.

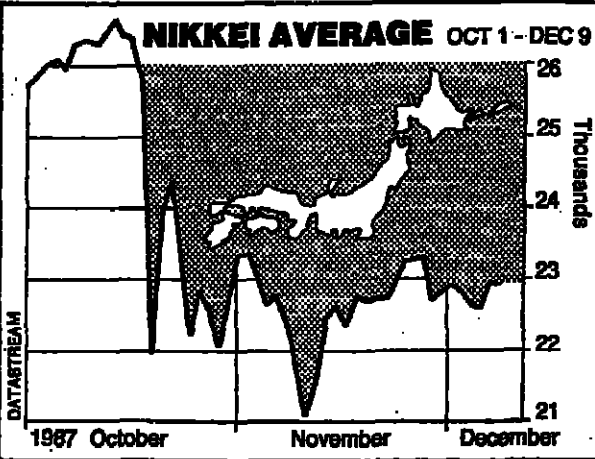
Domestic demand is growing strongly. Construction and housing are improving, and last summer saw the turn-

around in manufacturing. Recent figures indicate that Japan is headed for another record trade surplus and the economy is well on target for 3.5 per cent gross national product growth this year. Forecasts for 1988 of 3.5 to 4 per cent look achievable.

Although many UK investors do take Japan seriously, the enormous size of the Japanese market means the influence of foreigners is relatively small. This is the key to its resilience. The Japanese themselves are not traditionally big sellers of shares. Added to this, says Fidelity, liquidity available for investment continues to be high and Japanese equities look attractive at a time when domestic sentiment is positive.

The latest edition of the popular *Investment Trust Yearbook* published by City analysts Alexanders Laing & Crutchfield this week says the yen is likely to strengthen further in 1988 but that most major exports can survive at 130 yen to the dollar. If the yen can be kept under control and an American slump or protectionism can be averted, earnings may again be attractive later next year, it adds.

This view on the yen should not be taken as a clean bill of health for investing in Japan. Alexanders points out that the



Premier Takeuchi: spending

domestic economy's fundamental strength is only one of the reasons given by optimists for believing that Japan can motor ahead while the rest of the world slumps.

A whole raft of specious claims for the efficacy of the Japanese market is then brought up in support, says Alexanders. The best interpretation they can put on this is that while others break and run at the first sign of trouble,

Sentiment tending towards speculation

attempts are made in Tokyo to organize a fighting retreat in good order.

Maybe so, but as the new Prime Minister Noboru Takeuchi is keen to stimulate domestic demand still further through increased government spending, the market looks as secure as any major market can look in a worldwide bear scenario. And it is the market sectors that are likely to benefit from the resilient domestic economy that smart fund managers are seeking out on behalf of unit trust and investment trust investors.

Fidelity's view is that in the short term investment sentiment is tending towards the more speculative end of the market in line with the traditional end-of-year rally.

Over the longer term, says Fidelity, the stocks that still have foreign holdings, together with those sensitive to the dollar, are less attractive than some of the second-line stocks that have good potential.

All this together does suggest Japan is coping with the bear market rather better than most. Existing investors should certainly stay in. Potential investors prepared to take at least a three-year view should commit between 10 and 20 per cent of their risk investment money to this market.

Fidelity shelves PEP until Budget

Fidelity Investment Services has deferred the launch of its 1988 Personal Equity Plan until after the Budget next year, as predicted in last year's Family Money, writes Amanda Parfitt.

Fidelity was the first group to launch a PEP and is one of the major players in the market with around 77,000 investors in its 1987 plan. However, in common with other plan managers, Fidelity has found the response to PEPs in its first year disappointing.

Barry Bateman, Fidelity Investment Services' managing director, maintains that instead of widening and deepening share ownership significantly, PEPs have primarily been taken out by existing investors. He says Fidelity is disappointed that the response is poor despite its enthusiastic marketing.

Fidelity and other groups have lobbied the Government to improve the tax concessions and to remove some of the restrictions to make PEPs easier to administer and more attractive. Mr Bateman believes the Government is "fairly sympathetic" and may announce an improved PEP framework, possibly in the Budget.

Fidelity is still urging investors to take out a 1987 plan before the end-of-year deadline, but advises would-be investors in a PEP next year to sit tight, at least until the Budget.

Lloyds Bank and Save & Prosper have expressed surprise at Fidelity's decision. Lloyds is the market leader, with 44,000 plan-holders, and S&P has 26,000. Although both would like to see improvements in the present framework, they remain committed and still intend to launch plans in 1988.

S&P announced this week that anyone investing a lump sum in its 1988 Managed Portfolio PEP before January 31, 1988, will pay only half the initial management charge.

Derek Booker, Lloyds' PEP Centre manager, says: "It is inevitable that the Chancellor would seek to disadvantage existing 1988 plan-holders." In common with S&P, he believes that any enhancements in the Budget would be either backdated to the beginning of the year or scheduled to come into effect for 1989 PEPs.

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BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE

PEP 87 started, brilliantly, on the 15th February. By 30th September it was showing the best return in the *Daily Telegraph* PEP League Table at 53.4 per cent. Since then shares as a whole have fallen sharply: by 1st December the FT All-Share Index was down 15.6 per cent from where it was on 15th February. Yet the offer price of PEP 87 units was still up, by 6.4 per cent.

The technique has been to invest in a selection of around 25 shares chosen for their growth potential. Now that the market has come back from the top, this is an excellent time to get in.

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There are no charges for Framlington PEP 87 other than the standard unit trust charges of 5 per cent initially and 1 per cent (+VAT) annually.

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The Government's intention when it created the PEP scheme was not only to provide an attractive tax incentive for investing in equities, but also to involve members in their investments. PEP 87 therefore invests only in British shares. It publishes a detailed annual report setting out the progress of each share in the portfolio. It has an AGM on 1st March each year. And votes at shareholders meetings or on issues affecting an underlying company are decided by a referendum of the members.

£420 INVESTMENT

Under current Government rules, the maximum investment is £420. The PEP subscription is therefore fixed at £420. This will be invested in units at the price ruling on receipt of your application, rounded up to the nearest whole unit. The offer price on 1st December was 53.2p (estimated gross yield, 2.73%).

Anyone over 18 can start a PEP, provided that no other PEP has already been started in the same calendar year. If you

PEP 87

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- No special charges
- Genuine involvement
- £420 investment

have already started a PEP this year, PEP 87 could still be available to your spouse or children over 18. But applications must be received by 31st December. After 31st December you will be eligible for Framlington PEP 88, which will be identical in structure to PEP 87 and which will be launched early in the New Year.

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Surname (Mr/Mrs/Ms or title)

National Insurance Number

Full first name

Tax district and reference (if known)

Address

I declare that the information above is true and correct according to the best of my knowledge and belief. I agree to inform you without delay of any change in my circumstances as set out in this form.

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FAMILY MONEY/3

Getting the taxman to work for you

It has been a good year for the company that Joe and Frank own jointly. Working out their profit figures for the 12-month period on December 31, 1987 (probably the single commonest date for company year ends), they reckon they will have cleared £150,000 in profit. So what should they do now, before the end of their accounting period, in order to save tax?

Several options are open. The simplest would probably be to do nothing, which would in effect leave the profits in the company, where they would be subject to corporation tax, payable usually nine months after the year end.

That tax is 27 per cent on profits up to £100,000. Then there is an effective rate of 37 per cent on profits between £100,000 and £500,000. The situation is not quite as straightforward as this, because the profits of some of the company come into the period up to March 31, 1987. Corporation tax rates at that time were 29 per cent on profits up to £100,000 and 36.5 per cent on profits between £100,000 and £500,000.

In broad terms, three-quarters of the company's profits would be taxed on the current rates, that is, for the months April to December, and one-quarter of the company's profits for the year would be on the old rates, that is, from January to March.

In broad terms, the calculation would be:

The first £100,000	
£75,000 at 27%	£20,250
£25,000 at 29%	£7,250
First £100,000	£27,500
The next £50,000	
£37,500 at 37%	£13,875
£12,500 at 36.5%	£4,562
Total	£18,437
Next £50,000	
Tax on total profits of £150,000	£45,937

Joe and Frank are especially keen to save the 37 and 36.5 per cent tax rates. And they recognize that by keeping money in the company, they are in effect imprisoning it there, because to get it out they would need to pay income tax on any distribution either in the form of a dividend or a salary.

So to some extent at least there would be a double tax charge on any money retained within the company, then ultimately paid to them personally.

Nevertheless, building up for the financial strength of the business in this way would please the bank manager and generally improve the look of the balance sheet. It would also allow Joe and Frank to reinvest in various business assets such as stock or plant and machinery on which they get relatively little or no tax relief.

Investing in new equipment, such as machinery, a truck, a shelving system or a new computer, could reduce the current year's tax liability to some extent. But in general, the maximum write-off in the first year will be no more than 25 per cent of the cost.

So to get a £25,000 write-off against taxable profits this year, they would need to buy £100,000 worth of qualifying equipment. Obviously, such a move would help and there would also be more relief in later years.

But it would not be enough to precipitate a rash decision to buy substantial amounts of new kit that have not already been budgeted for on a strictly commercial basis.

Joe and Frank could draw some, or even all, of all the profits in the form of directors' fees. They could vote these to themselves after the year end and it would still count as a deduction against the 1987 profits.

There is then a lot of flexibility about the timing of this particular decision. But

Investment could recoup some

they have already taken £20,000 a year each in the form of monthly salaries and this has more or less used up their basic rate tax band of £17,900 plus various allowances and reliefs.

Any extra remuneration would be subject to higher-rate tax, which this year ranges from 40 per cent, with 60 per cent tax payable on any taxable income over £41,200. The company would also have to pay 10.45 per cent National Insurance contributions.

Joe and Frank could get back some, or even all, of this tax (but not National Insurance contributions) by personally investing in a tax-privileged medium such as a business expansion scheme or enterprise zone properties, such as the Property Enterprise Trust.

Thus, if they received £10,000 taxable income, tax would be automatically and immediately deducted under PAYE. But within a few months they should be able to get it back in the form of an income tax rebate for their BES or PET investment. However, this would mean a short-term (five-year) investment in the essentially rather risky waters of unquoted company shares or a much longer-term investment in commercial property.

Another possibility would be to take a dividend from the company. This would have the advantage of avoiding the National Insurance contributions payable on salary, but it would have some drawbacks. Below £100,000 profits, distributions as dividends are effectively tax-deductible in full, but above that level there would be extra corporation tax for the company to bear.

And it is important to appreciate that dividend income is not pensionable.

One of the most tax-efficient approaches open to Frank and Joe would be to divert some profits into a pension plan. Very substantial amounts can usually be invested into a pension scheme on a director's or employee's

behalf. The entire contribution normally qualifies for 100 per cent tax relief in the year of payment.

For example, Joe and Frank, who are in their late-30s, have made no significant investments in pension plans in the past and the company could therefore make contributions for them of more than 100 per cent of their current remuneration. If they each drew £30,000 total in directors' fees, the company could invest a total of £30,000 or more and the amount would normally be fully allowable.

It is usually preferable to invest the maximum possible amount in the form of one-off contributions, largely for the sake of flexibility. However, there are complicated rules which can limit the amount of tax relief that the company can claim in the year of premium payment for a one-off contribution.

After much thought, Joe and Frank decide to retain £50,000 in the business, draw an extra £20,000 each as remuneration and £10,000 each as dividends (investing part of this in BES before April 6, 1988) and make sure that the company puts the £40,000 balance into pension plans for them. The total £40,000 is split equally between annual and single contributions which must be paid before December 31 to make certain that the premium qualifies for relief in the current year.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

Unsolicited mail, the presents you may not like



This is high season for unsolicited raffle tickets, Christmas gift stickers and similar assorted items to fall through your letterbox.

The vast majority of the organizations that post this mountain of paper to the homes of Britain are bona fide charities honestly seeking your financial support and contributions. They would understandably deny suggestions that their practices were hard-sell, but many of the recipients, especially the elderly and those lacking in worldly wisdom, feel threatened or pestered and unsure what to do with their unwanted packages.

One Family Money reader in east London received four unsolicited sets of raffle tickets, all from organizations in which he was interested or involved. He sent back one set of tickets but then discovered he had lost the other three sets. His immediate worry was that he might be liable for them.

His experience is similar to that of many people who are sent raffle tickets they have not requested and fear they have a duty to buy them or sell them to friends and family, or post them back. Then there are those Christmas gift stickers and cards from char-

ities that come with invitations to contribute or buy more of the wares on offer. Some organizations actually ask recipients to return unwanted goods.

So what should you do if you do not want to handle the raffle tickets or buy anything?

The simple answer is that all these unsolicited items are sent without any legal obligation, and you can use them or throw them away as you wish.

Sender can ask for a donation

Nor is there an obligation on the recipient to return them unused even if asked. The relevant law that relieves the recipient of any duty is the 1971 Unsolicited Gifts and Services Act.

Indeed, the sender actually commits an offence if he asks you to pay for what he mails to you. However, the sender can quite legally invite the recipient to buy other similar items to support the cause, and even request a straight donation.

In the event many recipients, send a contribution or order more items.

Leonard Critchley, director of the Mailing Preference

Service, describes the practice of sending out stickers and cards thus: "It is a gentle moral blackmail but people have no liability for unsolicited items."

The Mailing Preference Service was set up with the aid of the Consumers' Association to minimize the annoyance that is caused by junk mail. It is supported by many of the companies that send out this growing proportion of your post. People who want to come off companies' mailing lists can put their requests to the service. The service will then tell the companies, if they are among its members, to remove the names. On request the service will also get people's names added to their members' mailing lists.

The reader who lost the unsolicited raffle tickets can rest easy. But perhaps he should also know that if he finds them, then sells them and pockets the money, he will be committing the offence of fraud himself!

All that said, few people during the Christmas season or at any other time of the year would want to prevent genuine charities from sending out their goods to gain donations and publicity.

Brian Collett

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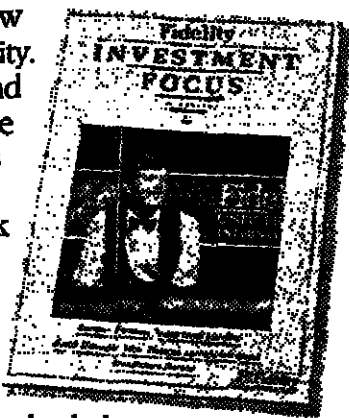
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Inherit a villa with a better deal

Proposed changes in Spain's inheritance law are likely to come into effect early in 1988.

The old inheritance law meant succession duty was based on the degree of relationship between the deceased and the beneficiary, which meant a non-relative could, in theory, pay up to 73 per cent in tax. The new draft law has simplified the levels of payment by proposing reductions from seven classes to possibly four as follows:

- Direct descent
- Ascendants and spouses
- Relatives, including uncles and cousins
- Others

The heir will have to declare the true value, which should agree roughly with the tax inspector's. If the values differ by more than 50 per cent the Government will be able to exercise the right of pre-emption and purchase the property at the false declaration price.

The projected law offers total exemption from inheritance tax on the first two million pesetas (£10,000) if left to spouses or children over 21. Any children under 16 are exempt on the first four million pesetas, which decreases on a sliding scale until they are 21.

Should a spouse die and the Spanish will names the other spouse and children as beneficiaries, each of them has the full quota of tax-free exemption. Equally, if the property is in joint names, and registered on the *escritura* as such, inheritance tax is due on only half the estate.

Other relatives who inherit have an exemption of one million pesetas but for distant relatives or those not related, there is no exemption. At present, an uncle or cousin would pay inheritance tax of



Spanish property will soon carry less inheritance tax

between 45 and 50 per cent on property valued at 10 million pesetas (£50,000), which would drop to about 13 per cent if the new law is adopted. The non-relative, instead of being faced with a 73 per cent tax, will pay 22 per cent on an estate with the same value.

The wealthy, however, will not benefit in quite the same

in Spanish leisure homes, forming a Gibraltar-based or other offshore company has become a common way to avoid Spanish inheritance taxes. So when a member of the company dies his shares go to another shareholder and, as far as the Spanish taxation system is concerned, that company continues to own the home and no transfer has taken place.

But, the tax authorities are unhappy about this simple tax avoidance scheme, even though it is perfectly legal. They are particularly concerned about the practice in Andalusia, which, although it has one of the highest unemployment figures in Spain, also has some of the most expensive properties in Europe around the Marbella-Puerto Banus area. Offshore companies could be ordered to pay an annual property tax.

Diana Wildman

Buying is best even after a crash

House prices may fall as the Stock Exchange slides, but the tax reliefs remain as attractive as ever. WALTER SINCLAIR explains

The tax system strongly favours buying rather than renting. You normally obtain no tax relief for rent, although an exception is made if you use your house for business. However, if you buy it on mortgage, you obtain relief on the interest, subject to the rules.

If you are to obtain the relief, the purpose of the loan must be to purchase or improve your only or main residence. A mortgage obtained to buy a second home has no tax relief.

Alternatively, you need to let the property at a commercial rent for at least 26 weeks in the year and additionally it must be available for letting at other times.

What counts is the use made of the money borrowed, rather than the property against which the loan is secured.

Tax relief is limited to the interest appropriate to a £30,000 loan. The relief also covers interest on a loan to buy a house for a dependent relative of your wife or yourself. However, such a loan counts towards the £30,000 limit.

If you change your house, relief is available for interest on a bridging loan of up to £30,000 for a year or longer at the discretion of the Inland Revenue.

If your mortgage is less than £30,000, you may obtain relief on additional amounts borrowed for improvements. Examples are central heating installations, garages, garden construction and landscaping, double glazing and plumbing improvements.

In general, basic rate tax can

be deducted from allowable mortgage interest payments to building societies, banks, insurance companies and the like. Thus, with the trend to a lower basic rate, borrowers are paying more net interest. Higher rate taxpayers obtain further relief.

You obtain tax relief only on the mortgage interest, not capital repayments. So it is generally beneficial to have a fixed loan, and a sustained

CGT exemption extremely valuable

level of interest. The eventual repayment can be arranged by means of a life assurance policy. Such a policy carries no tax benefits, but if it is a good investment, the arrangement is normally worthwhile.

From a tax point of view, pension mortgages are far more beneficial. You use part of your lump sum entitlement under a pension policy to provide the capital repayment needed. You then obtain full tax relief on the pension contributions that you make, as well as obtaining mortgage tax relief. If pension schemes are capable of being used in this way, it is highly desirable to do so from a tax viewpoint.

Your home has another vital tax advantage — its freedom from Capital Gains Tax. Subject to the rules, your main residence totally escapes Capital Gains Tax.

If you have two homes, you can elect for one to be treated

for Capital Gains Tax purposes as your main residence. For mortgage relief, there is no right of election and you obtain relief only for your actual main residence.

You may suffer a proportionate reduction in your relief if you are absent from your house. But certain periods of absence do not count, including the last 24 months of ownership, periods of absence totalling three years, any periods of work overseas and up to an aggregate of four years during which you are employed away from home.

If a specific part of your house is set aside for business purposes, a proportion of your profit on selling the house will be taxable. However, if you use no rooms exclusively for business purposes and make this clear to the Revenue when claiming tax relief, you will not normally be liable for any Capital Gains Tax when you sell the house.

If part of your house is let for residential purposes, you obtain Capital Gains Tax relief on your part. A further amount of the gain is also exempted, limited to the exempted gain on the part that you occupy, or £20,000 if smaller.

In recent years, large capital gains have been made on residential property and so the Capital Gains Tax main residence relief is extremely valuable. But remember that if you buy, improve and sell your homes with such regularity that you are treated as trading,

income tax will apply and no exemption will be available.

There are no particular Inheritance Tax reliefs relating to houses. Indeed, your main asset for Inheritance Tax purposes is likely to be your house. However, if you leave it to your surviving spouse, the tax will not normally be payable.

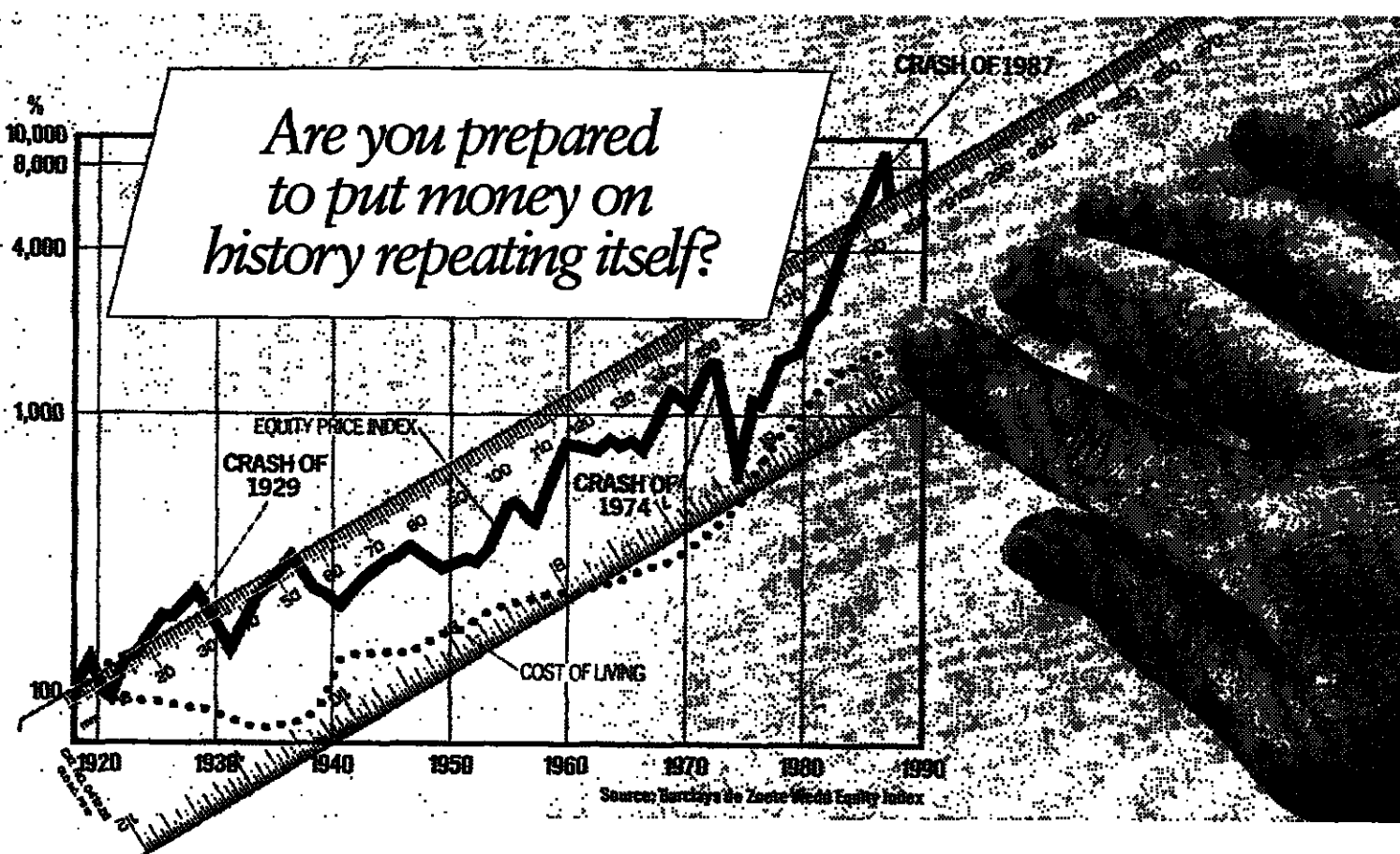
Houses often lead to Inheritance Tax complications. For example, the rules on reservation of benefit may come into play. If you make a gift but reserve some benefit, the property would normally remain yours for Inheritance Tax purposes on your death.

A particular example is where you gift a house but remain living there. However, the rule would not apply if, for example, you visit the house only occasionally or pay full rent for the house.

A final point to consider is buying the house in the joint names of your spouse and yourself. You can own the house as joint tenants or tenants in common.

Under a joint tenancy, the share of the first to die passes automatically to the other. For Inheritance Tax purposes, however, it is generally better for husband and wife to own the house as tenants in common. This gives each a clearly defined share in the house which can be disposed of by lifetime gift or will.

The author is a tax partner in Kilmartin, the chartered accountants, and author of the *Allied Dunbar Tax Guide 1987-88*.



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Portfolio - Gold -

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 25).

No	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	-5	+7	+5	+8	+5		
2	-3	+6	+4	+5	+7		
3	-2	+5	+5	+3	+6		
4	-4	+5	+2	+6	+4		
5	-4	+8	+5	+8	+4		
6	-3	+8	+6	+5	+3		
7	-3	+5	+3	+5	+7		
8	-2	+5	+4	+3	+3		
9	-2	+6	+2	+6	+5		
10	-4	+8	+4	+7	+3		
11	-2	+5	+1	+3	+4		
12	-6	+8	+7	+7	+2		
13	-4	+8	+2	+5	+5		
14	-1	+6	+4	+5	+3		
15	-2	+7	+3	+5	+4		
16	-4	+5	+5	+7	+2		
17	-5	+8	+7	+7	+1		
18	-2	+8	+5	+4	+2		
19	-3	+5	+2	+4	+7		
20	-3	+7	+3	+5	+7		
21	-5	+8	+6	+7	+5		
22	-4	+5	+5	+7	+1		
23	-4	+5	+1	+6	+7		
24	-5	+8	+6	+7	+6		
25	-3	+6	+4	+8	+1		
26	-3	+6	+5	+5	+7		
27	-5	+8	+7	+8	+6		
28	-4	+5	+2	+5	+5		
29	-2	+5	+3	+4	+5		
30	-4	+5	+6	+5	+2		
31	-4	+6	+1	+5	+4		
32	-3	+5	+3	+5	+5		
33	-4	+5	+8	+6	+3		
34	-4	+8	+4	+6	+4		
35	-2	+5	+2	+5	+8		
36	-1	+5	+2	+4	+7		
37	-4	+5	+6	+6	+5		
38	-3	+5	+4	+4	+3		
39	-5	+8	+6	+6	+6		
40	-4	+5	+6	+5	+5		
41	-5	+8	+5	+5	+3		
42	-3	+5	+3	+4	+6		
43	-3	+5	+4	+7	+4		
44	-2	+5	+4	+4	+4		

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PENSIONS

If you are about to change jobs, you probably face one of the most complex financial decisions you will ever have to make — what to do with the pension benefits you have accrued during service with your current employer.

At present there are three main options:

1. Retaining the benefits in your previous employer's scheme
2. Transferring the "cash equivalent" to your new employer's scheme
3. Transferring the "cash equivalent" to a Section 32 policy commonly called a buyout bond.

From next July you will also be able to transfer your benefits to one of the new personal pensions.

Whether to retain the benefits in your old employer's scheme is a relatively straightforward decision. Under the Social Security Act 1985 all preserved benefits since January 1985 must be boosted by 5 per cent per year or the Retail Price Index, whichever is less.

In addition, where the scheme has been contracted out of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (Serps), the part of the benefit that constitutes the Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) must be increased in line with earnings.

Clearly, such increases are satisfactory only in periods of low inflation and it is anybody's guess whether the recent low levels will continue until the day you retire.

Another drawback is that the preservation legislation does not make any provision for death before retirement, with the sole exception that contracted-out schemes must currently pay a GMP to a surviving widow. And from an administrative viewpoint, people who intend to switch jobs frequently should bear in mind that if they always leave their benefits where they are, they will eventually have to deal with several trustees.

On the other hand, some schemes pay 5 per cent or the RPI in respect of all service — not just the time completed. Since January 1985, staying put may also be a wise choice for members of schemes that offer valuable pension increases in payment, such as index linking.

The second option — whether to transfer to your new employer's scheme — is altogether more complicated. The main problem is that there is no simple equation between the number of years of pensionable service you have earned in the first

scheme and the number of years that will be credited to the second.

This is because the two schemes are unlikely to provide identical benefits and because salaries normally increase on moving jobs. As a result, the original scheme will base the deferred pension on your earnings when you leave service, while the receiving scheme bases the calculations on your projected earnings at retirement.

Payments transferred to a life company

The actuaries calculating the transfer value will thus estimate earnings increases and relate them to the likely investment returns. Most assume salaries will rise by 8.5 per cent per year compound and that investment returns will produce 9 per cent per year compound. The difference between these two factors is the most important part of the equation.

Naturally, a good decision here depends on your potential salary increases before retirement. If you think you are in a fast career lane, transferring across could be the best bet — particularly if the terms of the new scheme are generous.

It would be foolish to ignore

this option if both the old and the new employer belong to what is called The Club. If an employee moves from one Club member to another, the transfer value is calculated on a year-for-year basis.

Much the same occurs when the two employers belong to an industry-wide scheme. Here, too, you can simply take your accrued benefits with you when you go.

The third option is to take out a Section 32 policy whereby responsibility for paying the pension is transferred to a life assurance company. Instead of being linked to your salary, the ultimate payout depends on investment conditions over the years and interest rates at retirement.

One point to note is that if the transferring scheme is contracted out, the S32 contract must offer a GMP increased by 5 per cent or 8.5 per cent per year. Consequently, most life offices invest this part of the transfer value in a non-profit contract. Obviously, the greater the portion of the transfer that has to be applied to any non-profit basis, the less will be taking advantage of the potential returns on a with-profits or unit-linked basis.

This generally means that a buyout from a contracted-out scheme will produce a lower return than one from a con-

tracted-in scheme. This is particularly important if you earn below the Upper Earnings Limit (£15,340) because the GMP part of your benefits is relatively large. The more you earn over this limit, the less you have to worry about.

However, the main disadvantage of a buyout bond is that up to about 15 per cent of the transfer value can be eaten away by charges. Normal commission, for instance,

The price of retiring early

takes care of 4 per cent of the premium.

The final option is to switch to a personal pension next July. The attractions of this move are similar to those for S32 contracts but with a few important exceptions.

First of all, you can use your personal pension to contract out and so receive the Government's 2 per cent incentive for six years until 1993. And if you are young (35 or under), the National Insurance rebate you receive in lieu of Serps is considerably loaded in your favour.

Furthermore, if you do not envisage a long stay with your new employer, you can take a personal pension with you the next time you move.

The flip side is that the commission paid to intermediaries on this type of contract is 25 per cent of the initial premium and 2.5 per cent thereafter. The initial transfer could thus be more costly than a switch to an S32 contract.

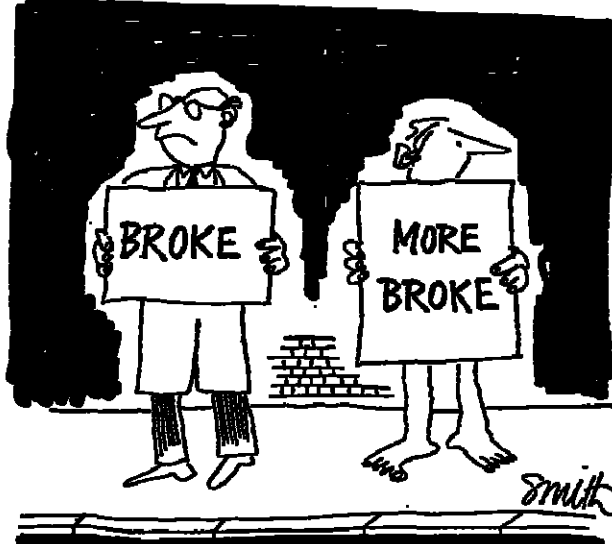
For personal pensions and buyout bonds much has been made of the possibility of early retirement and the availability of additional death-in-service benefits, which may be missing from your employer's scheme. Both features, of course, have their price.

Ultimately, the attraction of life office contracts compared with transferring to your new employer's scheme depends on whether you can beat the rate of interest assumed by the actuaries in calculating the transfer value.

In recent years, the growth on with-profits policies has been around 16 per cent per year while actuaries for company schemes have long assumed a growth rate of 9 per cent per year.

But, as Professor David Wilkie, of consulting actuaries Watsons, explains, they use "that rate for a very good reason. If you examine a selection of share indices since 1919, the real compound growth has been just short of 10 per cent."

Ceri Jones



The penalties and pains of going broke

BANKRUPTCY

The days of debtors' prisons may long since have gone, but bankruptcy still leaves big emotional scars and carries an enormous stigma. TOM TICKELL reports

Last year was one of the worst on record for bankruptcies, and 1987 may prove to be just as bad. So far this year between 500 and 700 people have gone bust every month, and the classic time for bankruptcies to increase is after a stock market collapse. So there may be many more on the way.

In the past the distinction used to be clear. People went bankrupt, whereas companies went into liquidation, but nowadays the lines are increasingly blurred.

Banks and other lenders to small companies often insist that the directors give personal guarantees for the loans they receive, so that if things go wrong, a small company failure can bring bankruptcy with it.

The mechanics of bankruptcy are simple. If you cannot pay your bills, repay loans or settle interest payments, any creditors can go to court with a petition for bankruptcy.

If you cannot settle up within a fixed time limit — and make no move of your own — the courts will provide your creditors with a bankruptcy order, and a "licensed insolvency practitioner" will move in. He then retrieves and sells your assets in order to settle your debts.

But the process of getting a bankruptcy order is not automatic. Sometimes bigger creditors believe they will do better by allowing you to continue in business — particularly if they see your problems as a temporary hiccup.

They can always decide to keep the business going, but until the new Insolvency Act, which came into effect at the beginning of the year, it took just one vengeful creditor to block the arrangement, however little you owed him.

The new rules are very different. If you believe that you should keep going, you can get the courts to freeze the potential bankruptcy for up to a month.

You then have to bring in your financial minder in the form of the insolvency practitioner, who will draw up a business plan — perhaps suggesting that creditors take instalments on what you owe — if he believes that your business is viable.

The proposals will go to a meeting of your creditors, who will vote on them, though their votes are weighted according to the scale of what you owe them. If the creditors to whom you owe more than three-quarters of the money decide to keep you in business, you can continue.

The great virtue of the arrangement is that you do not suffer the penalty or stigma of bankruptcy, but even so you do not remain in charge of your business. You have to consult your financial minder on every decision you make and his duty is not to you, but to the creditors.

Martin Iredale, a partner in Cork Gully, the best known bankruptcy specialists, says: "The new scheme has big advantages in suitable cases — but we don't have enough experience to know what impact it will have. But all too often people ignore the warning signs until too late — so there's no alternative to bankruptcy."

If that happens, you will be left with very little. The original Bankruptcy Act of 1914 allowed you to keep £5 and your clothes and the tools of your trade and that was about it.

Last year's Insolvency Act widens the scope, by allowing

you to keep a car for instance, though it is happens to be a Rolls-Royce the insolvency practitioner — your financial underwriter — will almost certainly insist that you sell it for something smaller.

In the past there was a mass of conflicting case law on whether your wife and family could be turned out of the house, but the new Act makes things much clearer.

Generally you have up to 12 months to sell it, though if you have a joint mortgage, and your wife can buy out your share of the house, it can remain in the family.

Whatever the assets involved, the law lays down a strict pecking order for repayments. At the top of the queue come the "secured creditors", who have lent you funds, based on a particular property as security. The mortgage — or second mortgage — provides obvious examples.

That is one reason to be wary of those advertisements, offering to roll up all your loans in one. They normally charge you a higher rate of interest than you pay on a bank loan, though admittedly terms are better than those on a credit card.

The roll-up loans are usually based on a "second mortgage" — so they come very high on the list for repayment, with only your original mortgage lender preceding them.

"Preferential creditors" are next in line, and inevitably

Most result from muddle, not malice

include your tax office, and Customs and Excise for unpaid VAT. At least tax offices cannot take everything you owe, and leave the smaller creditors with nothing, as used to happen.

Most of the people going bankrupt run small businesses — and the Inland Revenue can claim any tax unpaid on staff wages as a "preferential creditor" but has to take its chance along with the other run-of-the-mill creditors for any tax you may owe yourself.

There is rarely much left for this last group — the "unsecured creditors" — because the first and second set of lenders have their debts paid in full, before the unsecured creditors get a look-in.

Most bankruptcies spring from muddle rather than malice, says Mr Iredale, but there are always people who see the financial storm clouds looming, and dispose of what they can to friends, business associates or members of the family cheaply, before the crisis hits them.

The insolvency practitioner in charge of your case can unscramble any of the arrangements you have made with associates in the two years before you went bust, unless you can show you were solvent at the time you made them. What is more, the term associate can cover anyone from your business partners to your ex-wife's children by another marriage.

Once you are bankrupt, various penalties appear. You are barred from being a company director, or an MP, and, more important, you have to declare your status if you want to borrow more than £20. The penalties remain in force for a full three years — at that point, you are usually discharged, though that is not automatic.

If the insolvency practitioner complains to the court that you have not co-operated in the wind-up process the agony lasts still longer.

People can usually remember the big bankruptcies — such as the one involving Willy Stora, who ran 150 companies and gave personal guarantees for their debts. He ended not just as a minus millionaire, but as a minus multi-millionaire. He went bust owing £110 million.

Most cases are very different. People usually fail because they cannot pay their VAT or tax bills, and end up with almost nothing after three years of taking financial orders. The penalties of muddling cheerfully through are enough to frighten anyone.

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SATURDAY 19th DECEMBER, 1987 at 7.30 p.m.

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CRICKET: ANDREW JONES JOINS A SELECT BAND AS AUSTRALIA HAVE A HARD DAY IN THE FIELD

Martin Crowe hits out to restore the family honour

Adelaide (Reuters) — Andrew Jones scored his maiden Test century and Martin Crowe played a depleted attack for 88 not out as New Zealand seized the initiative against Australia here on the first day of the second Test match.

New Zealand were 268 for two at the close, with Jones unbeaten on 128, having put behind them a dismal start when the captain, Jeff Crowe, was caught off the third ball of the day, from Bruce Reid.

The match was an hour old when Reid, Australia's most potent bowler, had to leave the field with a strained back. He was taken to hospital for a precautionary examination,

which revealed no serious injury and he might even be able to bowl today.

Jones and John Wright took advantage of a perfect batting pitch to build a stand of 128, a record for New Zealand's second wicket against Australia, being 20 runs more than the previous best, set by Glenn Turner and John Morrison in the 1973-74 series.

The partnership between Jones and Martin Crowe, who announced his intentions by hitting three fours and a six in his first 22 runs, is so far worth 140.

After the batting failures of the first Test match, Jeff Crowe gambled by moving

himself up the order. But it was a gamble that failed miserably for he provided Vettori, at short leg, with a gentle looping catch off the face of the bat — almost a carbon copy of Rutherford's dismissal by Reid on the opening morning of the match at Brisbane.

But Jones, aged 28, immediately settled into a productive groove, pulling and driving with great confidence. His first 50 came in 107 minutes with a glorious stroke through extra cover.

Wright was quite prepared to play second fiddle until failing to a bat-pad catch by Waugh looking less than impressed with the decision that gave off-spinner Tim May his first Test wicket.

Jones, although clearly tiring in the final session, went on to become only the fifth New Zealander to score a Test hundred in Australia when he hit his 247th delivery for four to mid-wicket.

By then Martin Crowe, clearly intent on making his eighth Test century, was calling the tune. While not always timing the ball perfectly, he was in a no-nonsense mood and was particularly hard on May and Sleep.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings
 1. J. Crowe c Vettori b Reid 45
 2. J. Wright c Waugh b May 45
 3. A. Jones not out 128
 4. M. Crowe not out 128
 5. M. Crowe not out 128
 Extras (b 4, nb 7) 11
 Total (2 wickets) 268

Full follow-through: Jones, new centurion, shows his style



Full follow-through: Jones, new centurion, shows his style

Srikanth a light in the darkness

Bombay (Reuters) — An effervescent 71 by Srikanth redeemed another lacklustre performance by India's batsmen on the first day of the second Test match against West Indies here.

India were 99 for three when drizzle and bad light enveloped the Wankhede stadium and stopped play for the day. An hour's play was lost in the morning session and only 45 minutes were possible after lunch, before the umpires were forced to take the players off.

The West Indies fast bowlers were well below top pace and the dazzling Srikanth took full advantage. If some of his strokes were not out of the textbook, he did give the sparse crowd something to applaud as he hit a six and 10 fours.

Srikanth finally fell to Walsh, who bowled shrewdly to

take all three wickets at a cost of only 19 runs. Srikanth's opening partner, Arun Lal, lingered for an hour over his three runs.

Mohinder Amarathunga, back in the team after being dropped for the World Cup, almost cleared Butts at short leg, only for the fieldsmen to get first a finger and then two grateful hands to the ball.

INDIA: First Innings
 1. Srikanth c Vettori b Walsh 71
 2. Arun Lal c Butts b Walsh 3
 3. M. Amarathunga c Butts b Walsh 1
 4. S. Waqar not out 11
 5. M. Ashraf not out 11
 Extras (b 4, nb 7) 11
 Total (5 wickets) 99

Hick has cherished goal in sight

By Alan Lee

By a fine stroke of irony, Graeme Hick has made his craft in New Zealand yesterday when news came through that he could be a member of the England side by the time he is 25.

It was ironic, because New Zealand have been avidly pursuing Hick for some time now, dangling the carrot of a one-year qualification period to play for their own Test side. Just such a route into international cricket was taken by Hick's former Worcestershire colleague, Dipak Patel, and for one of such talent and ambition, the short cut must inevitably have been tempting.

The Test and County Cricket

Board's decision, made on Thursday, to cut their own residential requirement from 10 to seven years was not made specifically with Hick in mind, though it was undoubtedly a factor. Hick had more than a little to do with the desire to keep him. That, it has most certainly achieved.

Hick, only 21 but already regarded by many as potentially the finest batsman in the world, is presently playing for Northern Districts to sustain a more competitive form of cricket than was available to him in his native Zimbabwe. He makes no secret of his passionate wish to play Test cricket, nor his impatience with the enforced stay in the waiting room.

Mike Vickins, the Worcestershire secretary, explains: "I think Graeme was always determined to become an England player but temptations would undoubtedly have been put in his way while in New Zealand. The shortening of his wait is very good news for us all."

Hick, something of a perfectionist, apparently wrote to his father recently complaining that the New Zealand pitches were "insanely slow for him. What he did not say was that his first three innings there had all produced centuries."

While Worcestershire supporters have been enjoying the good life this year, with luminaries such as Hick, Botham and Dilley to entertain

Alderman on song

Sydney (Reuters) — Terry Alderman and Kim Hughes made impressive returns to Sheffield Shield competition for Western Australia against New South Wales in Perth yesterday.

Alderman took five for 35 and Hughes hit an unbeaten 56.

Both players were making their first appearances following two-year bans for taking part in rebel tours of South Africa.

Western Australia lead by eight runs with eight first-innings wickets in hand.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Melbourne: South Australia 122 for two (K Hughes 56) v Victoria: Perth: New South Wales 115 (T Alderman five for 35) v Western Australia 123 for two (K Hughes 56).

Two paths open on sports facilities

By Ian Stafford

The Government are reacting to growing opposition to their proposals to privatise sports and leisure centres. Yesterday the Department of the Environment announced that under privatisation local authorities would still have the power to set charges and concessionary rates for the underprivileged.

The department's consultancy period on its proposals ended yesterday and a spokesman said: "There are wide-ranging views from local authorities, sports bodies and individuals, and the Government has to gauge the general feeling before deciding to go ahead with its proposals as they are, or to adjust them in order to satisfy those who gave their views."

"But there is no intention of taking away local authorities' power to set charges, opening hours or concessionary rates for the underprivileged. It is clear that in some quarters this point still needs to be made."

The Government now has to choose from two options. It could add leisure to the list of activities lined up for a competitive tendering arrangement, this would be discussed by a House of Lords committee at the end of January before being submitted to the Commons to be passed as law.

Alternatively, the Government could wait until the Local Government Bill becomes law in

the summer and then add sports and leisure to it at a later date. Before this, however, it has to study the consequences of the consultation.

The Government received more than 150 replies from sports bodies and interested individuals, airing their views on the proposals.

In yesterday's article in *The Times* on Sport in the Cities, which focused on the fears held by Britain's sports centre community, some comments were expressed. Jennifer McLean, an outreach worker, said: "If this centre was privatised, I would fear for its future. The whole concept of the centre would be smashed if it were taken over by a commercial organisation. The result, people from outside the community would not."

A colleague, Harman Nurse, added: "If the private sector encourages a different and wealthier market, there would be much local resentment. The centre is regarded by the community as theirs. And there is no way it could afford a price increase, let alone membership fees."

"Fights, snuggles, maybe even murders, could reappear and all our hard work would have been done for nothing."

Lowie wields the axe in crucial cup tie changes

By Keith Macklin

Graham Lowe, the Wigan coach, has sprung three surprises in his squad for today's John Player Special Trophy semi-final against Leeds at Burnden Park, the home of Bolton Wanderers Football Club. Lowe is not a man to allow reputation to colour his judgement, and after the recent sequence of unimpressive displays by the Central Park team he has replaced three experienced players with three youngsters.

Out go Graeme West, captain who shipped Wigan to the championship last season and to success in this same John Player competition, the second row, forward, Ian Potter, and the hooker, Nicky Kiss. Into their places in the pack come Ian Lucas, Ian Gildart and the hooker, Martin Dermott.

Against the star-studded international line-up of Leeds, Lowe is taking a big risk, for experience is vital in major cup ties. Nevertheless, Lowe has been plainly dissatisfied with his team's struggles, even in victory, and is a perfectionist who will not tolerate anything below the best.

Leeds make no such sweeping changes, and the only problem for the coach, Maurice Bamford, is to blend his leading individuals into a complete

unit. Last Sunday the pieces began to fall into place in the 44-0 demolition of Castleford, and today Bamford will look for outstanding performances from the likes of Schofield, Crooks, Cresser and the Australians, Tunks, Morris and Jackson.

This time last season I would have had no hesitation in tipping Wigan to go through to yet another John Player final, but this could be the match in which Leeds return to trophy-winning form and catch Wigan on the hop. Much will depend on whether Hanley can rediscover his attacking flair. For those forward, since Goodway cannot do it on his own.

The wisdom of the Rugby League authorities in taking the game to Burnden Park is demonstrated by the fact that, for or no, no first, today's match will go ahead on a pitch with underground heating.

In tomorrow's League games, the leaders, Widnes, travel to Swinton seeking revenge for the shattering home defeat they suffered at the hands of the Lions, who landed a late dropped goal to win 21-20 at Widnes despite even though they struggle at the bottom of the table.

Leigh have rejected a further improved offer from Oldham for their scrum half, Mike Ford.

Shelford is free to play

The New Zealand international, Adrian Shelford, will make his debut for Wigan today after a High Court judge ruled yesterday that he had not signed a binding contract with St Helens.

Shelford, who said he was "relieved and happy" at the decision, has not played since he toured Australia in the summer with New Zealand but will now make his debut in the John Player Trophy semi-final against Leeds.

St Helens claimed they had a contract with the prop forward, aged 23, and said that they had made his debut in the John Player Trophy semi-final against Leeds.

RACING

Courses face problems in race programming

By Michael Seely

The pressure of the number of runners in novices' hurdles and unsuitable ground in the winter is seen by many clerks of the course as being an insuperable obstacle in the way of staging sufficient National Hunt flat races to satisfy trainers during that period.

"Neither Nottingham nor Leicester are keen to do it and they are both suitable tracks," said Peter Cundell, the Compulsory Race Committee secretary, who said the race scheduled for the Midlands and the south between January 1 and March 31 compared with 18 in the north in the same period is absurd.

"Ryde Again, a full-brother to Celtic Rye, is the best young horse in my yard," Cundell went on. "He won a Chepstow bumper last weekend, but he was only qualified because he had previously been placed at Newbury, otherwise, who

knows when we would have got a run into him."

David Henson is clerk of the course at Nottingham and secretary of Leicester. "We want to do all we can to help," he said. "But it's very difficult. Both Nottingham and Leicester are on the flat as well and in the National Hunt season we race every 10 days or so. This gives churned up going very little time to recover."

"If it was possible not to run a novice's hurdle, which always has to be provided and which we are obliged to do at every meeting, it would be possible. Then we could have the occasional bumper, but we couldn't run both at the same time. The courses simply wouldn't stand it."

"David McHardy is in a different position in Scotland as he sometimes only has 50 runners a meeting whereas we always have around 100."

Doncaster results

Going good to firm (chase course): good

12.45 (2m 150yd ch) 1. BERRUDA'S (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 2. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 3. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 4. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 5. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 6. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 7. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 8. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 9. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 10. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 11. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 12. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 13. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 14. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 15. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 16. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 17. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 18. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 19. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 20. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 21. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 22. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 23. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 24. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 25. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 26. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 27. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 28. Yiddish (J. H. Mearns, 11-55) 29. Yiddish (J. H. 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Bolands Cross ready to repeat Lingfield win

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

The clash between Bolands Cross and Playschool in the Lingfield Park Handicap Chase is arguably today's most fascinating race.

Bolands Cross won the corresponding event by 15 lengths last year carrying 11st 11lb and he is expected to score again despite having another 11lb on his back, which means he must give 5lb to the Hennessy Gold Cup winner Playschool.

Playschool has been penalized 8lb for beating Contrail by five lengths at Newbury, where he was getting 4lb, and it is my contention that he is too close to a horse of the class of Bolands Cross in this handicap.

There is a line of form which supports my view. In last season's Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham, Playschool finished eight lengths ahead of Against The Grain at level weights, while in this season's Silver Buck Chase at Wincanton Bolands Cross gave the same horse 10lb and a 10-length hiding.

While conceding that Playschool has obviously improved in the meantime I am convinced that Bolands Cross has not stood still either.

I saw Bolands Cross at trainer Nick Gaselee's Upper Lambourn yard recently and I was so taken with the way that he had done physically since



Nick Gaselee: trains Mandarin's nap, Bolands Cross that morale-boosting Wincanton win that I regard him as a good bet.

Otherwise it could pay to follow Duffie (12.45) and Javes Light (2.15) from Reg Akhurst's Epsom stable. Duffie, my selection for the Presman Handicap Chase, accounted for the redoubtable Beau Ranger as well as Clara Mountain at Sandown in October. Afterwards he was clearly not himself when he trailed in a miserable sixth at Wincanton.

Stable companion Juvencio is quite capable of leading all the way in the Tioxide Group Handicap Hurdle, even on his seasonal debut, but I doubt whether Combined Exercise, a third-fancied runner from Akhurst's yard, will cope with the

unbeaten Goodwys Lad in the Summit Junior Hurdle.

With yesterday's card at Cheltenham falling victim to the weather Mr Frisk has been re-routed to Doncaster where he can win the Sheila's Cottage Handicap Chase. The course, distance and ground will suit this free-running jumper who was seen at his best at Warwick earlier this month when he slammed Risk-A-Ret.

Following yesterday's novices' chase win with Border Rambler, Gordon Richards and Phil Tuck are after similar prizes with Randolph Place and Jim Thorpe.

Randolph Place should win the Steel Plate and Sections Young Chasers. Qualifier but Jim Thorpe may be beaten by Pridaux Boy in the Freebooter Novices' Chase.

With Tickle Boo, Joint Sovereignty and Comeragh King to represent him in the International Cup, Jimmy Fitzgerald has given his many followers a real headache. Instead of choosing between I prefer Bishops Yarn, whose latest run behind Pegwell Bay at Newbury argued so well.

Floyd will again be hard to catch in the Glen International Bula Hurdle after winning the Fighting Fifth at Newcastle four weeks ago while Cottage Run (2.30) and City Entertainer (3.05) look likely winning rides for Simon Sherwood.

Stephenson faces inquiry

The Disciplinary Committee of the Jockey Club will hold an inquiry to consider the running and riding of W Seaford, trained by Arthur Stephenson, and ridden by Alan Merrigan, when the horse finished unplaced in the Standpoint Novices' Hurdle at Sandown on September 22.

The hearing will take place

Fitzgerald is still luckless

Malton trainer Jimmy Fitzgerald's run of ill luck continued yesterday, when his star, Jimmy Fitzgerald, was sent to the races with a broken collar-bone and a broken leg. Fitzgerald's horse had to be put down at Doncaster.

Stephenson did, however, have some reason to smile today when Traveller, ridden by Chris Grant, won the Red Alligator Handicap Chase at Doncaster.

LINGFIELD PARK

Selections
By Mandarin
12.45 Duffie, 1.15 Goodwys Lad, 1.45 BOLANDS CROSS (nap), 2.15 Javes Light, 2.45 Yeoman Broker, 3.15 Hognagney. Michael Seely's selection: 1.45 Bolands Cross.

Going: good to soft
12.45 PRESMAN HANDICAP CHASE (22,582; 2m 4f) (6 runners)
1-20-1 GENERAL CHAMBERS 245 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
2-21-1 GERALD 19 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
3-22-1 WILLY YEDMAN 28 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
4-23-1 BLUE BIRD 9 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
5-24-1 BLUE BIRD 9 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
6-25-1 STONEY CREEK 11 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
7-26-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
8-27-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
9-28-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
10-29-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
11-30-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
12-31-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
13-32-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
14-33-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
15-34-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
16-35-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
17-36-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
18-37-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
19-38-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
20-39-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
21-40-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
22-41-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
23-42-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
24-43-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
25-44-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
26-45-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
27-46-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
28-47-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
29-48-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
30-49-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
31-50-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
32-51-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
33-52-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
34-53-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
35-54-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
36-55-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
37-56-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
38-57-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
39-58-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
40-59-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
41-60-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
42-61-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
43-62-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
44-63-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
45-64-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
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47-66-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
48-67-1 AUTUMN ZULU 21 (D.F.G.) B. Gaselee 7-10-0
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Test starts and stops in bad light

Cricket's wild colonial boys

By Simon Barnes

The current cricket-spawned crisis is being compared to the Bodyline Series. This is a gross comparison. The villain of the piece, the Australians believe, was not Larwood, who bowled so fiercely, but his captain, Jardine. Jardine embodied all the instinctive colonial arrogance that Australians hate more than anything in the world.

It happens that the Pakistanis hate it just as much. And it is colonial arrogance, or at least a throwback to it, that is the heart of the matter now. Consider how the Pakistanis see this crisis. Cricket is, politically, a game about the abandonment of empire and the ambitions of former colonies. And if you look at the situation from the point of view of the former colony, you see England acting with all the traditional arrogance of masters.

England might have had a strong moral position in all this mess but they have blown it completely. There have been umpiring problems in Test matches between England and Pakistan as long as the nations have played cricket together. The problem, in English eyes, is that Pakistani umpires cheat and Pakistani players whinge when rightly given out by English umpires, who are, naturally, "the best in the world".

The Pakistanis do not see it in quite the same way. They have found some English umpiring genuinely unsatisfactory. They agreed that umpiring was a problem and wanted to have neutral umpires for the series last summer in England. Oh, no, English umpires are the best in the world, imagine what neutral umpires would lead to, why, you would end up with little brown chaps umpiring Ashes matches!

The Pakistanis then requested, as was their right, that David Constant, an umpire who had got up their noses in the past, be replaced. Replace him? My dear little brown chaps, he is an English umpire and that means he is one of the best umpires in the world.



Jardine: villain of the piece world! It is not surprising that the Pakistanis were extremely annoyed at cricket's bland colonial arrogance. But it seems to have surprised everybody in English cricket, all the same.

Last summer's matches were concluded in acrimony. The Pakistani tour manager was portrayed everywhere as a figure of fun and one of the papers ran a story headlined, as I recall, "Ten Ways the Pakistanis Cheat Our Boys".

With all this as a background, plus Pakistan's poor showing in the World Cup, the first Test of the present series was set up for heightened emotion. And the umpiring was so absolutely appalling and became so big an issue that it seemed inevitable that something would be done about it at last.

But England blew it. By open dissent, and by implicit support of open dissent from captain and tour management, England abandoned the principles of fair play they claimed they were defending. In effect, they said that if a Pakistani refuses to walk, it is because he is a cheat; when an Englishman refuses to walk, it is because the umpire is a cheat. In the immortal words of Mike Gatting: "One rule for them, one for us."

And so, obsessed by their one-eyed vision of wrongdoings, by some genuine injustices, by xenophobia, by injured innocence, the English cricket party have retreated into a larger, the unbelievable small-mindedness of Gatting's refusal to apologize to the umpire "unless the umpire apologizes for what he has said," pushed the row from a sporting squabble into an international incident.

I dare say the umpire was in the wrong but, with Gatting's rant, he and England have forfeited all claim to moral righteousness. Gatting was much provoked, I am sure; that is a good reason for what he did but it is no excuse. The issue should have been about the dreadful umpiring. But England have got it so completely wrong that the row is not about that at all now. It is about England's open defiance of the rules and tradition of the game.

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Faisalabad

Gatting is bitter

Bitterly as he resented being made to do so, Mike Gatting yesterday gave Shakoora Rana a brief but unconditional apology for having lost his temper with him on Tuesday and the second Test match against Pakistan restarted. He handed the unlovable umpire a note which read simply: "Dear Shakoora Rana, I apologize for the bad language used during the 2nd day of the Test match at Faisalabad (sic) - Mike Gatting." Whereupon they shook hands.

But even then, with play restricted to just under two hours by bad light, the main interest of the day centred on an unprecedented statement from the England dressing-room, issued with the knowledge, though not the authority, of Peter Lush, the manager, in which the players state categorically that Shakoora was the first to use "foul and abusive language" in his row with Gatting.

This, of course, put the events of the previous two days into a different light. While not excusing Gatting's own outburst, it went some way towards explaining it and also towards accounting for England's prolonged reluctance to take all the blame. In the end they felt they had been sold down the river by the Test and County Cricket Board who, having said at one moment that it was very difficult for them "to make decisions on matters happening many thousands of miles away" were soon afterwards ordering their manager to "take whatever steps necessary" to get the players back on the field.

As darkness fell last night Pakistan's last chance of making a goodwill gesture was spurned when they rejected England's request, made more in hope than expectation, for an extra day to make up for the one already lost. This means the match will almost certainly be drawn. With only today's play to come, England will start their second innings this morning with a lead of 101.

At the best they will be able to give themselves 50 overs in which to bowl Pakistan out a second time on a pitch on which Qadir and Qasim were able to add 52 in 35 minutes for Pakistan's ninth wicket

Mike Gatting admitted last night that he is considering his position as England captain. Gatting, who took over from David Gower 18 months ago, answered a question to that effect, head bowed, with a single word, "yes".

Gatting, speaking in the presence of the tour manager, Peter Lush, and the team manager, Mickey Stewart, was still clearly upset by the order to apologize unconditionally to the umpire, Shakoora Rana, for his outburst during the second day of the Test match.

Gatting confessed that he had considered ignoring the instruction but had gone through with the apology because of "the youngsters on this tour, who possibly may not play Test cricket again, and youngsters who have not even started to play cricket yet".

Gatting said he believed his integrity had been "sacrificed" but when asked if he had offered his resignation replied: "I don't think I want to answer that one."

Shakoora Rana remained unapologetic about his part in the affair. "Why should I apologize when I was not at fault. It is a gentlemen's game and one should play like one," he said. "I am very glad Gatting accepted my demand."

yesterday, at the worst they could hardly be bowled out themselves in half a day.

It had been 8 a.m., an hour and a half before play was due to begin, when Gatting decided that on balance he had best accept the TCCB's directive. Even then, play started 35 minutes late, one last abortive attempt having been made to get Shakoora to do the decent thing, and no sooner had it done so than the umpires upheld an appeal against the light. With Foster bowling at the time, fast and aggressively, this was a fair decision. But between then and 3 p.m., when the sun at last came out, there were long periods when it seemed ridiculous not to be playing.

However, the delay gave the England players time to work



The slanging match makes way for the Test match as Shakoora and Gatting get on with the game (Photograph: Graham Morris)

on their deposition, released eventually by their vice-captain, Emburey, after the close. Their manager, knowing what he did, had been left by the TCCB with what amounted to an unplayable lie; their captain felt, as they did, that he had been required to sacrifice his own integrity "to protect an umpire who has been causing shock waves for the last 10 years".

In issuing their statement, they took into account that they might well be fined for indiscipline. The senior members warned the younger ones of this but the decision to go ahead was unanimous and in the event it may have helped to save Gatting his job.

The captain admits that he was wrong to be drawn into a slanging match with Shakoora.

Once it had happened, I still think the least harm would have been done by trying at the first opportunity to patch things up. I am not sure that Gatting agrees with that. No one likes being wronged and as he had said to me in Lahore after the first Test match: "There comes a time when one can take no more". No more provocation was what he meant.

I suppose no England captain has ever had two months of the type of pressure which the World Cup and now this tour have imposed. If an international panel of umpires and an objective review by the TCCB of England's touring schedule comes out of a wretched business, that will be something.

"A storm in a cup of tea"

was how Hasib Ahsan described it. I am afraid the Pakistan Board are marvellously unsuspicious when it suits them and also extraordinarily elusive.

There could be no better example of this than that, when the crisis was worsening last Wednesday afternoon, the secretary of the Pakistan Board left for Lahore, the best part of 100 miles from here, without informing the England manager or leaving any one in a position to act as his proxy. Mr Lush had to go after him.

It is the view of the England players that at all times Pakistan "completely ignored the wider interests of the game". That, I think, is tantamount to a side who have been known to ignore them themselves, but they could be right.

When there was a sudden change of tone from Lord's speculation followed as to whether or not a higher authority than the TCCB had been at work. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office had been in touch with Lord's and the British Ambassador to Pakistan was known to be keen for England to make all the necessary running in settling the issue. Whether, had they not done so, Pakistan would have made a last-minute move of their own we shall never know.

"Cricket will go from bad to worse unless we do something to change that now," Ahsan said as Pakistan waited until after play yesterday before deciding whether or not they were in a strong enough position to offer England an extra day. If that sounds cynical, it is not easy at the moment to be anything else.

By the time the chairman and chief executive of the TCCB arrive in Karachi in time for next week's last Test, Gatting will have had the chance to collect his thoughts, though anything like an attractive game of cricket is probably too much to hope for. There was something unreal about yesterday's play, not only because it was as cold as a day as I can remember in these parts, watched by another very small crowd. It seemed to be taking place in a vacuum.

Not the least difficult thing Raman Subba Row and Alan Smith will have to do is to persuade the players that Pakistan is a place worth touring.

The players' statement

'Wider interest ignored'

"The England players deplore the fact that it was not possible to effect a compromise solution between Mike Gatting and umpire Shakoora Rana. We would have expected the governing bodies of both countries to use their influence and authority to resolve the problem.

"What is beyond dispute is that the umpire was the first to use foul and abusive language to the England captain. This was clearly heard by England players close to the incident.

"Mike Gatting was ready to apologize two days ago for his

response, providing the umpire would do the same.

"We also wish to register a unanimous protest that the TCCB should consider it necessary to issue instructions through our manager, Peter Lush, to order the captain to make an unconditional apology to the umpire. By doing so the captain, in the wider interests of the game felt he was forced to act against his own free will.

"Earlier statements from the TCCB said that the problem had been left in the hands of the England management, to resolve as they thought fit.

The instruction issued to the manager last night left him virtually no room to manoeuvre.

"The TCCB exerted pressure on Mike Gatting and the rest of us and we are unanimous in the view that the same 'wider interests of the game', referred to by our own Board, have been completely ignored by the BCCP (Board of Cricket Control of Pakistan), who did not exert similar pressure on the umpire.

"The incident was sad for cricket but the solution forced upon us is even sadder."

The TCCB statement

'Test match must be restarted'

"At the meeting of the Test and County Board on Thursday, it was unanimously agreed that the current Test match in Faisalabad should restart today, after the rest day.

"The Board's manager in Pakistan, Peter Lush, was advised of this decision immediately and asked to take whatever action was necessary to implement it.

"In reaching their decision, the members of the Board recognized the extremely diffi-

cult circumstances of the tour, and the inevitable frustrations for the players arising from those circumstances, but they believe it to be in the long term interests of the game as a whole, for the match to be completed.

"The Board will be issuing a statement on the tour when it is finished, but in the meantime the Chairman and Chief Executive will be going to Karachi for the final Test next week."

TCCB chiefs fly out for crisis talks

By Alan Lee

Late on Thursday night, yet another telephone call between Lord's and Faisalabad was put through. Quite what was said may remain a secret but the information coming out of Pakistan was enough to persuade English cricket to send the equivalent of a gunboat into threatened waters.

Raman Subba Row, chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board, and Alan Smith, the chief executive, are to spend the weekend preparing for an urgent departure to

Karachi, where their mission is every bit as complex as this week's Washington summit. The stakes may not be so high but it is no exaggeration to say that international relations are at risk, quite apart from the future of England's cricket players and management.

Smith had hinted, earlier on Thursday, that the option of sending senior officials to the troubled tour party had been considered. "If at any time we think it can be of help, one of us will fly out immediately," he said. That moment arrived

rapidly, almost certainly when the tour manager, Peter Lush, relayed to Lord's the unanimously angry reaction of his players to the instruction obliging Mike Gatting to offer his unconditional apology.

This order had been carefully camouflaged after the board's full meeting on Thursday. Their only public hint at the decision came with the words "every effort must be made to restart the Test". Although nobody was admitting as much, "every effort" meant just that, a complete

climb down by the intransigent captain.

Smith and Subba Row have both had recent experience of managing England teams on the sub-continent. Subba Row took the team to India six years ago when players' unrest over umpiring decisions was almost as severe as it is now; Smith was in charge in Pakistan two years later, on the tour blighted by drug allegations against Ian Botham. Both men know the peculiar pressures on touring teams in these parts and they will doubtless be sympathetic to

the players' feelings, even if their main brief is to secure the shaky foundations of Anglo-Pakistani relations.

Their priority will be to ensure that the final Test match, beginning in Karachi next Wednesday, is played in a calmer atmosphere. Nothing can alter the damage already done and a full inquiry into that is to follow in the new year. But cricket's two most prominent officials are determined to ensure that the players' deep resentments do not boil over again.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Athletics conflict

Britain's athletics chiefs face a conflict of interests tomorrow when they decide how the team for next year's Olympics is picked. Steve Cram, Sebastian Coe and Fatima Whitbread believe there should be pre-selection for top medal prospects.

They are backed by the director of coaching, Frank Dick. But the AAA will press for pre-selection to be scrapped at a meeting of the British Board's Council, and with the majority voice could have their way. They believe the system broke down at last summer's world championships when Cram, Daley Thompson and Linford Christie failed to win medals.

20-year ban

Paris (AFP) - The "bad boy" of French hockey, Bertrand Pointurier, has been banned for 20 years after smacking a referee, breaking his nose and putting him in hospital after a pre-season game.



Baddeley: injured

The England and Commonwealth champion, Steve Baddeley, the main hope for a British medal in next month's Far East badminton grand prix, has withdrawn because of a foot injury.

Royal appeal

Paris (Reuters) - The Princess Royal, president of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI), has called for members to consider a drive to help remedy the federation's troubled finances.

Fenech win

Sydney (Reuters) - The World Boxing Council super-bantamweight champion, Jeff Fenech, of Australia, knocked out the Argentinian featherweight, Osmar Avila, in the first round of a non-title bout yesterday.

Big prizes

Britain's first athletics meeting of 1988 has been given a sponsorship boost. The Cosford games, on January 8 and 9, is being backed with £6,000 worth of prizes by Onora Terminals Ltd.

Roche honour

Paris (AFP) - The Irish cyclist, Stephen Roche, is to be given an audience by Pope John Paul II in the Vatican next Wednesday, the cyclist's agent announced here yesterday. Roche achieved a rare treble in winning the tours of Italy and France, as well as the professional road race at the world championships this year.

A plea to every family who wishes it had a Grandparent

Every day throughout the developing countries, there are elderly people who struggle for the bare essentials of life. Kim Soon-Hui in our photograph is almost 80 years old.



She is widowed, without any means of supporting herself.

Her only help comes from neighbours who try to spare her some food.

If you are prepared to put aside £1 a week, you can sponsor an elderly person like Kim as your Grandparent.

Through Help the Aged's Adopt a Granny scheme, that modest sum can help provide food, clothing, medical care and the chance to live with hope and dignity.

Please give your support now. And discover the joy of bringing one of the world's most needy Grandparents into your family.

To Help the Aged, Adopt a Granny, Room 7231, FREEPOST, London EC1B 1DD. Please tick box.

☐ Please send me details of my sponsored Grandparent. I enclose my first monthly payment of £1.33.
☐ Please send me more details of the Adopt a Granny scheme.
☐ I cannot become a sponsor now but enclose my donation of £1 towards Help the Aged's overseas work.

NAME (MR, MRS, MISS, MS)

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

Adopt a Granny
Help the Aged

مكتبة القرآن الكريم